

The Middlebury Campus

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Since 1905

Teen party damages Frost summer home

By Kelly Janis
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

"He loved it there," said Donald E. Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing Jay Parini — author of *Robert Frost: A Life* — of the Homer Noble Farm in Ripton, Vt., where Robert Frost resided during his stay at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. "It was isolated. It had wonderful fruit trees. It had some fields. And it had wonderful forests behind it."

In *Robert Frost: A Pictorial Chronicle*, the poet's former managing secretary, Kathleen Morrison, details Frost's decision to purchase the farm from the Noble family, former cattle and sheep farmers and purveyors of their own maple syrup.

"Whatever apprehensions we felt, the situation would be ideal for our children," Morrison wrote. "They could swim, fish, learn about rabbits, raccoons, deer and harmless snakes — our son even had an unsupervised confrontation with a bear — and all this without the organized formalities of camp life."

"For him, it was the ideal farmhouse," Parini said.

This idyllic façade was dealt a staggering blow on Dec. 28, when

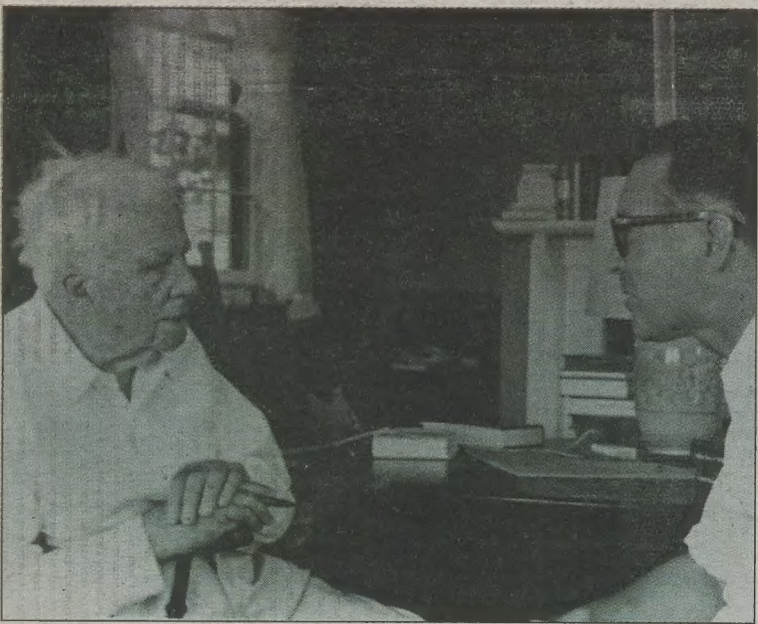
the College-owned farm on which Frost summured from 1939 to 1963 incurred an estimated \$10,000 worth of damage in the wake of what police described as a "large underage drinking party."

Police say vandals shattered a window to gain entrance to the farmhouse and proceeded to destroy tables, chairs, pictures, light fixtures and dishes, torch wicker furniture in the fireplace to warm the unheated building, discharge two fire extinguishers and urinate and vomit inside the building and on the surrounding property.

"I've been here for 20 years and I've never seen anything like this," said Sgt. Lee Hodson of the Vermont State Police in New Haven. "Of course, there have been underage drinking parties before. But, usually, they take place in a field or in the woods, and they just leave some empty containers. Nothing of this magnitude."

According to a Jan. 7 press release by the state police, the approximately 50 partygoers — ranging from 15 to 22 years of age — have been identified, and are undergoing continued interviews and investigation. In particular, the police have

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Robert Frost at the recently vandalized Homer Noble Farm in the 1960s. Courtesy

Applications reach record level

Annabelle Fowler
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Admissions has received a record 7,680 applications for the Middlebury Class of 2012, a seven-percent jump in the number of applicants compared to last year. Admissions officials expect the pool to grow to roughly 7,800 as they continue to receive applications that were mailed before Jan. 1, the postmark deadline.

This year's larger applicant pool was partly anticipated because Harvard College and Princeton University dropped their early admission programs this past fall. Some candidates who would have applied early to either school are

now part of the Middlebury application pool. According to Dean of Admissions Bob Clagett, this will make admissions decisions more difficult than before.

The Class of 2011 was targeted to be 600 students, but 640 enrolled, not including February-admitted students. This growth was the result of a yield of around 46 percent, a two-percentage-point increase from the yield for the Class of 2010. The Class of 2012 is targeted to comprise 570 regular and 90 February students. Because of the potential for a high yield of matriculations of admitted students, the College may cut back the number of acceptances this year.

"The combination of the fact that we anticipate the possibility of a higher yield, in addition to a bigger pool of applicants, means we will have the lowest admit rate in Middlebury history," Clagett explained.

Despite the increase in applications this year, the seven-percent growth rate in the number of applications is slower than those encountered in previous years. The growth in number of applications for the Class of 2011 compared to that of the Class of 2010 was 18 percent, and the expansion in the size of the Class of 2010 compared

SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 2



Elizabeth Zevallos

LET THE RACES BEGIN

Students watch the results of the New Hampshire primary Jan. 8 in The Grille. Following the Iowa caucuses, the New Hampshire primaries kick off the 2008 presidential election campaign. See the story, Page 2.

IHC proposes The Mill eviction

By Brian Fung
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Inter-House Council (IHC) issued a recommendation to administration officials on Jan. 8 that, if ratified, would render on-campus social house The Mill a "non-residential organization" for the spring term. The recommendation comes nearly a month after a fire with an unknown cause broke out in The Mill on Dec. 11.

The fire originated in the room of Louis Lobel '08 and Ernest Russell '09, who suggested that the fire may have been caused by electrical problems. Lobel said that this was not the first time that electrical problems have been witnessed at The Mill.

"There had been sparking from an outlet in the kitchen downstairs during a Mill dinner a few weeks before," Lobel wrote in e-mail, "so it is possible that a similar sparking occurred in my room."

But the house was empty at the time of the incident, leaving students and administrators unclear as to the fire's true cause. Meanwhile, the Middlebury Fire Department has yet to release a conclusion of its own. Amid the ongoing inves-

tigation, The Mill members may be stripped of their house if the IHC's recommendation is adopted by Dean of the College Tim Spears, Director of Campus Activities and Leadership Doug Adams and the Community Council.

Following the fire on Dec. 11, Adams conducted a spot inspection of the house and discovered four smoke detectors that may have been tampered with. While the initial discovery was unsettling enough, The Mill students were further alarmed when Adams later unexpectedly

presented them with a formal list of fire code violations that included additional items other than the smoke detector infractions.

The high risk of fire disasters at institutions nationwide has pushed the College to take a stringent stand against breaches of its procedures, wrote Dean of the College Tim Spears in an e-mail.

"The policies and equipment we have in place are aimed at preventing the tragedies that have

SEE SOCIAL, PAGE 3

Popular professor faces unexpected dismissal

By Kathryn Flagg
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When Christine Bachman '09.5 found out last month that Assistant Professor of Sociology Laurie Essig had been fired, her first response, she said, was disbelief. That such a wildly popular professor would be dismissed was unthinkable.

"It was a huge crush," said Bachman. "It was a huge blow."

In what was, according to Essig's students and departmental colleagues, a highly unexpected decision, the three faculty-elected members of the Reappointments Committee recommended to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz in December that Essig's tenure-track contract not be renewed. The decision could mean the end of Essig's academic career at Middlebury, but Essig's staunch supporters question the validity and wisdom of the recommendation. For opponents of the recommendation, Essig's review raises more troubling questions about the transparency of the review process and the status of academic freedom at the College.

"We are shocked and saddened that the considered views of both her departmental colleagues and her students could be so readily turned aside in the decision making pro-

cess," wrote Burke Rochford, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in an e-mail. "Members of the department in no way anticipated this negative outcome."

Equally upset was Sujata Moor-ti, chair of the Women's and Gender



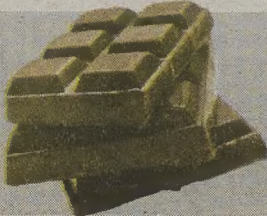
Grace Duggan

Studies (WAGS) Program, in which Essig routinely teaches. "The decision is a devastating blow to the program," she wrote in an e-mail. "The decision not to renew Professor Essig's contract shatters any hope of expansion or stability in the WAGS curriculum."

Essig, who left a position at the

SEE PRE-TENURE, PAGE 3

this week



Eat Good Food plans
College plans to turn space downtown into chocolate bar, page 5



tag along
Look behind the scenes at the groups of people that allow campus to run, page 12-13

fake i.d.s
How are they used and how widespread is their impact here? page 14



middbriefs

by H. Kay Merriman
Staff WriterSpringsteen visits Midd
with son on college tour

Bruce Springsteen, his wife Patti Scialfa and their 17-year-old son Evan visited Middlebury on Dec. 6, 2007. Evan, the eldest son of the famous musician, interviewed with Assistant Director of Admissions Scott Atherton. Student tour guide Hannah Burnett '10 led the "Born in the U.S.A." family on a tour of the College, but would not reveal details of the visit.

"I feel like choosing colleges is one of those things that is about family and less about fame," said Burnett. "His son probably would want to be admitted not as Springsteen's son but as an individual."

While in Vermont, Springsteen and his family also toured the University of Vermont. According to Buff Lindau spokesman for St. Michael's College, they were also planning on visiting the Colchester, Vt.-based college but ran out of time on their visit.

Language academy
receives first grant

The Leon Lowenstein Foundation, a New York-based organization interested in supporting educational- and health care-related programs, provided a \$100,000 grant to the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy (MMLA), based in Atherton, Calif., and Colchester, Vt., that will allow the MMLA to offer need-based financial aid to students wishing to attend the program. The grant will also fund a "lending library" that loans iPods, laptops, software and other expensive technology to students who need to use it during the program.

Middlebury College and the Monterey Institute of International Studies will open the MMLA on June 28, which will run a series of four-week language immersion programs, similar to the summer language schools at the College, for seventh- through 12th grade students. This summer, the school will teach Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and French, with the hopes of adding more languages as the program grows and receives more funding.

The Leon Lowenstein Grant is the first to be received by the MMLA, but MMLA Director of Pre-College Programming David Toorney is hopeful that more will follow.

"The generosity of the Lowenstein Foundation will help us offer a unique language immersion experience to young learners who, without financial aid, could not attend the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy," Toorney said.

New England Review on
sale in bookstore now

The Winter 2007 edition of the *New England Review* (NER) has been published and is currently being sold in the College Bookstore. NER is a national quarterly publication that has been produced at Middlebury for 30 years. This issue (Vol. 28, No. 4) is the first to be published on 100-percent post consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper and represents the College's efforts to "Leave a Smaller Footprint."

The magazine's commitment to publishing a variety of pieces, from experimental fiction to prose and poetry translations to arts and literature reviews, is apparent in the Winter 2007 issue. Never-before-published letters by Aldous Huxley, Rebecca Purdum's thoughts on abstract painting and James Longenbach's analysis of the "poetic line" headline the issue. In the past, writers published in the NER have been noted in the "Best American" series, "The O. Henry Prize Stories," "Best American Nonrequired Writing," "New Stories from the South: The Year's Best" and have received the Pushcart Prize.

Students mobilize for presidential election

By Michael Suen
STAFF WRITER

In the last month, a burgeoning demographic has begun to assert its potential in swaying the outcome of the presidential elections: the college student. With the New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucuses over, the race for the White House is now in full swing.

Whether or not Middlebury's students are invested in what political analysts are calling the most open race in more than 50 years, however, is another issue. Historically, the Middlebury student body has garnered a reputation for being largely indifferent towards social and political issues. Incoming students have noticed the apparent student apathy.

"I wasn't surprised that there weren't any prominent 'Students for Mitt' groups, but was shocked at the absence of a strong 'Students for Obama' group," said Ashley Sandy '11.

Despite the perceived apathy on campus, there is most certainly a select portion of the student body that has been actively involved. To facilitate the registering of voters, MiddVOTE held its first registration event in late November of 2007. With a turnout of 93 first-time registrants and additional absentee ballot applicants, student organizers were pleased by what they called "civic energy."

"It proved an effective way to raise awareness about the upcoming elections and about the ease with which we can register to vote or get absentee ballots," said MiddVOTE student leader Trevor Lee '09.

Already, some students have been carefully considering which candidate to support and where to cast their votes.

"I'm deciding whether I should vote in Vermont or Massachusetts, but right now I'm still deciding who to vote for," said Emma Lennon '11.

Moriel Rothman '11, a student campaigner for Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), registered to vote in his home state of Ohio, an important state in the presidential race. "It falls on the backs of college students to decide the fate of our nation," he said.

There has been discussion among candidates over whether students should vote in their home states or in the states in which they attend college. The unique voting opportunity given to students to vote in the state of their college has already proven its paramount importance in the Iowa Democratic caucuses. CNN entrance polls revealed that among Democratic caucus-goers, 22 percent were attendees between the ages of 18 and 29. A significant portion of this age demographic voted for Iowa victor Obama, indicating the power of young voters, able to swing an election in any certain direction.

"This will be our world in the near future," said Rothman. "We will be running the

businesses, running the economies and living our lives. It's up to us to make sure we have leaders we can trust and policies we agree with."

Despite this enthusiasm among some students, College Democrats Vice President John William Meyer '10 remains skeptical of college students' ostensibly crucial role in the upcoming election.

"There's always a lot of talk about young people getting involved and really changing the tide of the election," said Meyer. "This comes up with every election. However, I feel

ton (D-N.Y.), and former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.), an opportunity to draw interest, educate uninformed students and mobilize voters.

For Republicans at Middlebury, voting seems as if it could be adversely affected by pressure from a predominantly liberal student body. According to Sandy, though "people [can] be swayed in their voting," being a conservative in a left-leaning college can equally provide "the opportunity to say what I think, receive mostly negative feedback, and strengthen my reasoning to defend what I believe."

Despite the ongoing efforts to spread political awareness, many students feel generally unaffected, though not necessarily unaware.

"I haven't seen as much of a political presence on campus as I thought I would

have," said Lennon. "There have been debates and documentaries, like 'No End in Sight,' and in this sense I guess there has been a formal political influence."

Though an abundance of political groups such as MiddVOTE, College Democrats, College Republicans and Justice League do exist on campus and have offered screenings, informational meetings, speakers and discussions to further foster political interest, students have observed that involvement only extends to immediate participants.

"There are a lot of kids that are politically active, but the campus itself is not necessarily conducive to political activism," said Rothman. "There are certain groups that are passionate, politically active and not apathetic. But then there are also people that have other things to think about, or don't care. You'll always have both."

This comes up with every election. However, I feel that there's a big divide with young people saying and young people voting.

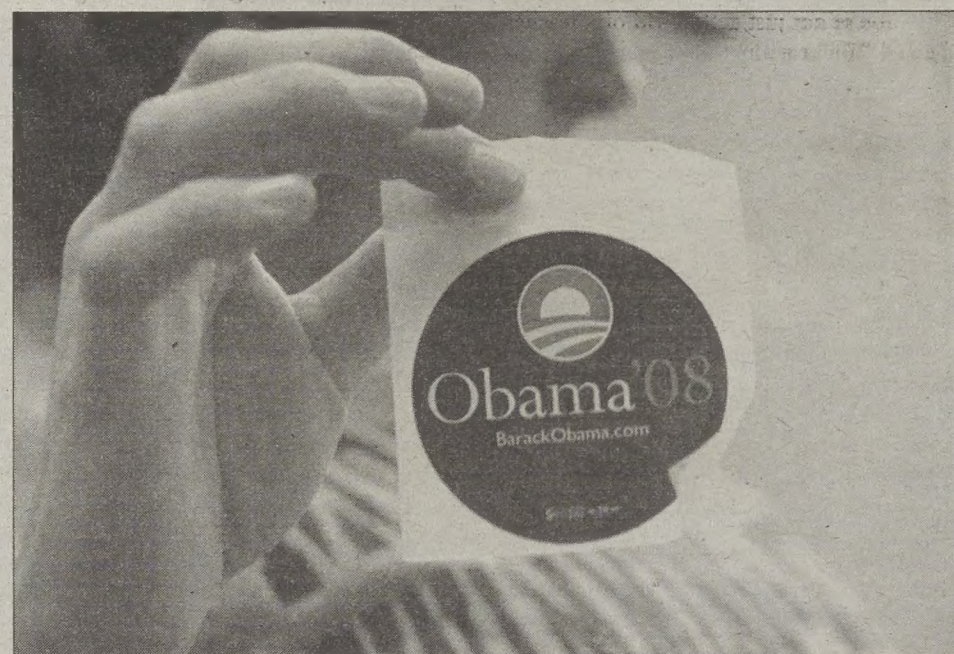
—John William Meyer '10

that there's a big divide with young people saying and young people voting."

Though a nationwide study by the University of Maryland's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement reported that while 80 percent of college students planned to vote in the 2004 presidential election, only 47 percent of nearly 25 million eligible 18- to 24-year-olds ultimately voted.

Nonetheless, in considering the sharp increase from the 36 percent of eligible young voters who participated in the 2000 presidential election, the rise of political participation may yet prove to be a continuous trend.

In the fall semester, College Democrats held information sessions to introduce the political backgrounds of Democratic presidential candidates Obama, Sen. Hilary Clin-



Meaghen Brown

As the presidential election cycle kicks off, students have begun to sport campaign stickers.

Admissions reports record applications

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to that of 2009 was 16 percent.

Additionally, both applicant pools from Early Decision I and Early Decision II have decreased by about seven percent compared to last year. However, there is still a combined Early Decision pool of almost 900 applications, a high figure compared to those of other NESCAC colleges whose early admittance pools range from 400 to 600 candidates.

Barbara Marlow, associate director for International Admissions, reported that there are approximately 1,329 applications from international students for a place in the Class of 2012. In this pool, the 319 applications from China and 99 from South Korea are two groups that stand out because of their size. There has also been an increase in the number of applications from both Africa and South America this year.

According to Clagett, the growth in the number of applications mirrors very closely

the growth in the number of visitors to the College. In fact, the seven-percent increase of the total pool is essentially the same as the increase in the number of campus visitors this year. This is not the first time this trend has occurred, and campus visits are regarded as an informal barometer for the size of the applicant pool.

Nick Meiers '10.5, a College tour guide, thinks campus visits allow prospective students to tell if they can see themselves at the College. "A lot of them come well-aware of Middlebury's high rankings, but we go through the whole tour without ever mentioning that," said Meiers. "Once they see our campus and hear about life at the College, they're sold. Instead of seeing Middlebury as a number, they see it as the community that it is."

Admission decisions are to be mailed to applicants for the Class of 2012 on March 28, a week after officials finalize the admissions procedure.

Class of 2012
Application Statistics

Rise in Applications (from class of 2011): over 7 percent

Projected Number of Applications: 7,800

International Applications: 1,329

Early Applicant pool: 900

Applicants from China: 319

Applicants from South Korea: 99

Pre-tenure denial raises larger questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University of Vermont to join the Middlebury faculty three semesters ago, was evaluated by the Reappointments Committee in the first of two assessments professors undergo on the road to tenure. This pre-tenure review seeks to evaluate a professor's promise as a teacher and a scholar, as well weigh past accomplishments.

According to Professor of English and Provost Alison Byerly, over the last 10 years, from 1995-1996 through 2005-2006, 91 percent of faculty who came up for pre-tenure review passed the review process. Close to 89 percent of faculty reviewed for tenure in that same period were granted promotions.

Playing Defense

In the wake of the decision, several of Essig's students and colleagues have leapt to defend her progressive, arguably provocative teaching style, which allegedly came under attack during her review.

"A number of students have indicated to me that their lives have been changed after taking a course from Laurie," Rochford said.

Essig's colleagues also praised her for her significant dedication to ensuring the success of her students.

"I deal with a lot of students who are on the margins," said Assistant Professor of Writing Hector Vila. "I have consistently placed those kids in her classes, and they have consistently come out with the same assessment: 'Wow. I can't bring a kid in here as a witness of a bad experience. Just the opposite.'"

For students on campus, Essig's dedication to the learning experience outside of the classroom served as an equally important reminder of her role as a teacher.

"As far as the faculty goes, she's easily one of the most if not the most supportive member for queer students, the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) and Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM)," said MOQA Co-President Ryan Tauriainen '08.

"You're not just getting rid of a teacher," he said. "You're getting rid of an advocate."

Questioning the Review Process

In light of her popularity, the confusion over Essig's review decision has some supporters questioning the very process by which professors are reviewed at the College — a process administrators were quick to defend as necessarily confidential.

"It's a personnel issue. Those are usually confidential," said Liebowitz on Jan. 8, shortly before meeting with a small group of students who contacted him about Essig's appeal. "The review process in general in academia is a highly guarded process."

In the meeting that followed, Liebowitz and Byerly faced heated and increasingly frustrated questions from the approximately

20 students in attendance. While neither administrator could speak to Essig's case specifically, both spoke openly and at length on the College's system of faculty review, seeking to clarify what is, for many students, a murky process — and one that Molli Freeman-Lynde '08, Essig's research assistant and thesis advisee, later noted has potential limitations.

"This process puts a lot of faith in the idea that three professors from across academic disciplines can necessarily recognize good teaching in a field they're not familiar with," she said.

The majority of questions raised at Tuesday's meeting focused on the criteria by which professors are evaluated, though students also pressed Liebowitz about the possibility of institutional bias in assessing what Alexandra Garcia '07.5 termed "progressive professors."

Moorti raised similar concerns in an e-mail to *The Middlebury Campus*. "I have emphasized to administrators that we need to assess feminist pedagogy by different measures than what we use for 'mainstream' courses," she wrote. "There is a vast body of scholarship and research conducted on various aspects pertaining to the teaching and assessment of feminism. I believe that none of this valuable scholarship was consulted before the Reappointments Committee assessed Professor Essig."

Broader Ramifications?

The ramifications of Essig's dismissal remain to be seen, but professors like Moorti and Rochford and students intimately involved in the the WAGS and Sociology programs have expressed concern about the hole Essig's absence could create in the system.

"Since Professor Essig was primarily assessed negatively on WAGS-affiliated courses, I would not be surprised if junior faculty hesitate to teach gender or women's issues in the future," wrote Moorti. "The lack of institutional/administrative support for WAGS-affiliated faculty also signals the College's lack of commitment to this important area of the academy."

Moorti also worried that Essig's open criticisms of the College's administration could discourage other members of the faculty from speaking out, as Essig has, on political issues.

"Professor Essig has been a vocal critic of the Rehnquist chair, the College's policy on Marine Recruitment, the homophobia prevalent on campus and in general she has emphasized the need for us to rethink how we define and understand the term diversity," Moorti wrote. "I am certain that with this decision, junior faculty would hesitate to take a public stance on any divisive issue or challenge the administration."

For students in the WAGS and Sociology departments, Essig's potential departure is also cause for concern when considering depart-

mental continuity.

"Of the professors I've had since coming to Middlebury in the Sociology and Anthropology department, only two are on campus this year and one of those is a new professor," said Freeman-Lynde.

"Who in the Sociology Department can I turn to if she's gone?" asked Bachman. "These are concerns that I'm sure a lot of students are feeling."

This perceived turnover in the Sociology and WAGS programs has Freeman-Lynde, Bachman and other student supporters speculating about patterns in review decisions for provocative professors.

"It seems to me that Middlebury College has a pattern of firing or denying tenure to any professors — in my experience, in the Sociology department — who do not fit the mold, who challenge the dominant structures and who teach their students to think critically about our society or who use the classroom as a place to explore power," said Freeman-Lynde.

Student Mobilization

At the forefront of present student concern, however, is the more immediate goal of saving a popular and, Essig's supporters argue, dynamic professor.

After learning of the Reappointment Committee's decision, Bachman and Baylie Roth '09.5 formed a group on Facebook that quickly attracted over 150 members. From the living room of the Chellis House, the hub of the WAGS program on campus, Bachman, Roth and a small contingent of other concerned students mapped a strategy for their response. Current plans call for letter-writing campaigns, petitions and office hour protests — a "creative way to bother people," said Bachman.

Although quick to acknowledge the challenges they face, these students remain largely optimistic about their ability to affect change in Essig's appeal.

"Even though a lot of this is about powerful structures and powerful institutions, there are basically five people who have a say in this decision," said Freeman-Lynde, referring to the three members of the Reappointments Committee, Byerly and Liebowitz. "It's pretty rare for an activist to have such open access to the people whose minds they have to change."

Though Essig, like the other professors immediately involved in the review process, could not comment specifically on her case, she said that she is "humbled and awed" by the outpouring of support she has seen from students and other members of the College community. The student response, she said, has been "really, incredibly gratifying."

"It's been amazing teaching Middlebury kids," said Essig in an interview with *The Campus*. "I've loved every second of it."



overseas briefing

Seeking a peaceful, easy feeling down under

by Kate Dellas

SYDNEY—Studying abroad in Sydney, Australia was somewhat of a blissful experience. The 24-hour trip was a long nap, interrupted by timely meals and movie choices.

We arrived in Sydney only to be swept up by a group of eager study-abroad counselors with a distinctly Australian approach.

Easy-going would be an understatement. Meanwhile, the American students embodied neuroticism, misting Evian sprays to ease the nervous sweats brought on by the idea of lost luggage.

We got our first dose of 'no worries mate' that morning in Sydney.

The awaiting vans headed to Coogee, the eastern suburb that was to become home. We were deposited one by one along Beach Road, with houses and apartments all complete with ocean views.

Australia began with 'no worries' and floated along in that manner for the next 16 weeks. My housemates and I bought surfboards in that first week, vowing we would master this Australian lifestyle.

Turns out we spent our days napping on the beach, occasionally dragging our boards into the water for a good beating.

Days came and went, and we discovered beachside cafés and markets that became daily stops.

We noticed each other marching along Coogee Bay Road, disguised by fresh tans and new uniforms — ever present "sun-nies" and "swimmers." Our flip-flops became thongs, but we remained distinctly American.

Our classes at the University of New South Wales broke up the monotony of the beach. The studies in Australia continued as they had at Midd — maybe more in the manner of a Middlebury Winter Term.

Needless to say, there were few complaints in Coogee. The Sydney Harbor Bridge, the Opera House and the Darling Harbor were all checked off on our to-do lists.

We filled backpacks with bikinis and traveled up the coast from Brisbane to Cairns.

We jumped out of a plane at 16,000 feet, jumped off a bungee tower in the middle of the night and jumped off cliffs in the rainforest at our final stop in Cairns.

Our desperate parents pled with us over the phone, but we were on the other side of the world and we were jumping.

As classes came to an end, the bustling Coogee we knew absolutely exploded. As American students, tourists-turned-residents, we suddenly felt overwhelmed by the crowds of visitors swarming our beaches, our cafés. We sought escapes.

My housemate, Catherine, a Georgetown student, and I booked a flight to Bangkok, and planned a trip through Thailand. It is this trip that would slowly reawaken us to the real world, outside our Australian beach utopia.

We packed our bags, said goodbye to Coogee, and boarded our plane with few plans, few worries and a few lessons learned in Australia.

Social house faces heat after fire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

taken place on other campuses," wrote Spears. "The College takes very seriously any effort to circumvent the life-safety measures we've established."

The Mill representatives supported the administration's stance on fire safety but protested the severity of the IHC's recommendation in light of the fire code violations' limited extent.

"We are unclear just how many members of the residency may or may not have tampered with their smoke detectors," said social house member Xander Manshel '09, "but that [number] is a small fraction of the larger membership of The Mill."

The IHC's recommendation has yet to be considered by other administrative bodies charged with overseeing the College's social house system. While the measure may ultimately be defeated in the coming weeks, formal ratification of the proposal would force The Mill's nine residents and more than 30 non-residential members to search for a new space in which to prepare meals, screen films and share College life, according to Manshel

and Jay McDonald '08.

"We want to do everything we can to work with the administration in order to keep The Mill part of the social community," said Manshel. "It would be great if we could do that with a residence associated with the organization, but if they present that as something that is not a possibility, then we will have to

push forward without a house."

President of The Mill Willie Orbison '08 sought to strike an optimistic note as his organization prepares to come under review by the Community Council this month.

"We're going to be fine, I think, in a lot of ways," said Orbison. "But we just want the administration on our side."



Members of The Mill discuss the social house's future, jeopardized by several policy violations.

Andrew Ngeow

college
shorts

by Anthony Adragna, News Editor

Yale to increase funds
spent from endowment

Yale University announced plans to increase spending from the school's endowment by 40 percent next year.

The move comes amidst controversy that the nation's wealthiest universities continue to raise tuition annually while the value of their endowments continue to rise. The new funding will assist with financial aid programs and will go to new science initiatives.

"This is a very big boost to our spending," Yale President Richard C. Levin said. "We want to do things that are significant with it."

The announcement comes a month after Harvard University announced it would spend more of its endowment annually. With an endowment currently of 35 billion, the school has the largest endowment of any United States institution.

—New York Times

Gwinnett College aims
to find new mascot

Georgia's Gwinnett College is currently asking members of the community for ideas about mascots.

Since opening in 2006, the state's newest public school has hired teachers, opened classrooms and enrolled students. Now the school hopes to find a mascot, by opening a contest until Jan. 31 inviting ideas.

The school does not presently have a football team. However, school officials hope a mascot would help unite the community.

One of the first admissions received by the school came from a 10 year-old girl who chose the gar, a type of fish, as a potential mascot. Other nominations include Fighting Logjammers, the Green Knights, the Buttons and the Cranes.

The winning mascot will be announced Feb. 29.

—Atlanta Journal Constitution

UNC tops Kiplinger list
of Best Value in colleges

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill appeared as the top school on Kiplinger's Personal Finance annual list of 100 Best Values in Public Colleges.

Fees and tuition increased by 6.3 percent this year amounted to \$344, raising tuition and fees to \$5,836 and the overall cost to \$12,796.

The rankings give the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill high rankings because the school allows students to attend small classes with good contact with professors.

Other schools which placed high on the list included the University of Florida, the University of Virginia, the College of William & Mary and the New College of Florida.

—The Herald-Times

Former Duke lacrosse
players file lawsuits

Three members of the 2005-06 Duke University lacrosse team have filed lawsuits against the university, former District Attorney Mike Nifong and members of the faculty.

In the suit, Ryan McFadyen, Matt Wilson and Breck Archer allege the defendants continued to pursue charges even amid suspicion that the charges against the team were false.

In a statement released by the University the blame for the false charges was placed on Nifong. It claims the suit is falsely leveled against the University.

—The Duke Chronicle

Professors debate "amorous relationships"

By Cloe Shasha
STAFF WRITER

Faculty members gathered on Jan. 7 to discuss a proposal regarding "amorous relationships" between faculty and students. Led by President of The College Ronald D. Liebowitz and Faculty Associate in Admissions Miguel Fernandez, the meeting covered a range of moral, ethical and professional issues surrounding these relationships.

Liebowitz mentioned that American colleges and universities have different policies surrounding the issue of faculty-student relationships. After extensive research and discussions, Middlebury has proposed to follow the American University Policy guidelines which stipulates that faculty entering supervisory, advisory, evaluative or pedagogical roles with students must report an amorous relationship to the dean of faculty so the College can evaluate the situation case by case.

"We are avoiding a punishment for the relationship," said Fernandez. "We are instead punishing faculty in these positions who are not reporting their relationships with students."

A debate about the word choice of "amorous" rather than "sexual" was spurred during the meeting. Some faculty expressed their preference of a full ban on relationships between faculty and students.

"We considered a full ban, but encountered challenges," Liebowitz explained. "How would we enforce a policy against these relations? Who would investigate, and with what judicial mechanism? If there were a ban, faculty could be threatened to lose employment. We also do not want to infantilize our stu-

dents. Our primary goal is to minimize the negative effects of these relationships on the education of our students."

Faculty members are discouraged to engage in amorous relationships with students, although this is vaguely stated in the proposal from the American University Policy guidelines.

Stafford Professor of Public Policy, Political Science and Environmental Studies Chris Klyza suggested that the proposal include the line: "Such relationships are viewed

ship between a faculty member and student is jeopardizing a student's educational interest, the relationship could be reported to the student's parents."

Some faculty at the meeting responded with concern for student privacy.

Assistant Professor of History Amy E. Morsman stated that student privacy was important, but faculty professionalism should be a priority.

"You can be a lover as long as you can maintain professionalism," said Morsman.

"We do not want to create a sense of a police state. We want people to think about how to act professionally."

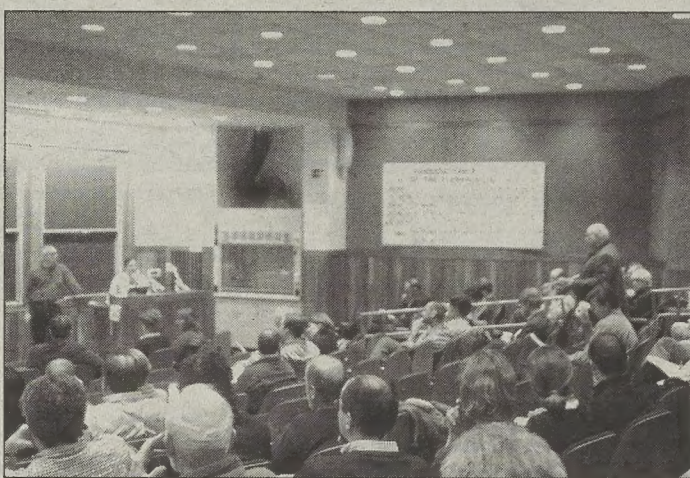
Based on the conversations conducted by student focus group, Liebowitz concluded that students are uncomfortable with the idea of their peers engaging in amorous relationships with faculty. They also, however, feel that a ban on these relationships would be wrong.

Several faculty members expressed that student discomfort was not an issue that should be prioritized for the best policy. For example, there are students on campus who may be uncomfortable with the idea of faculty engaging in homosexual behavior. But this discomfort does not merit regulation.

"We are not looking for a tally on the number of faculty who do not report their relationships with students," said Fernandez, ending the discussion. "Our goal is to know about people who are repeat offenders, and to deal with these individuals."

The new proposal will be amended to the College Handbook after a faculty vote in February.

A faculty meeting on Feb. 18 will continue to discuss issues from this meeting.



Amorous relationships were the focus of the Jan. 7 faculty meeting.

as inappropriate."

Fernandez explained the fundamental concerns of the College regarding the type of relationship that a faculty member engages with a student.

"If a faculty member gets into a relationship with a student once in a career, it may not be a concern to the College," said Fernandez. "If, however, it happens every semester, it might be an issue. Our policy is trying to address that issue. These relationships should be avoided for the community's sake and for the individual's sake. If a relation-

Faculty approves judicial board changes

By Aviva Shen
STAFF WRITER

At the December 10 faculty meeting, the faculty voted unanimously to approve changes to the judicial system to give students more responsibility in the process for their own behavior. The recommendations called for limited rehearings of an appeal, the prohibition of accused students withdrawing temporarily from the College with a judicial case pending, and the option of meeting with the Judicial Affairs Officer before a hearing.

The issue came to the faculty after a long series of discussion and debate within the Community Council. Dean of the College Tim Spears drafted the recommendations and brought them to the Council last year.

According to a memo Spears sent to the faculty, the first two recommendations were born in response to particular cases over the past few years.

"The changes are being made so that the board can make decisions using a procedure that maximizes its potential to help students as well as maintains the integrity of the process," Maddie Terry '08, co-chair of the Community Judicial Board, wrote in an e-mail.

The first recommendation helps make the appeals process more flexible and efficient.

"There have been occasions when cases that started at four in the afternoon don't end until two in the morning," Spears said. "[The first recommendation] allows the group rehearing the case to just reconsider the outcome based on corrected evidence."

Besides making the hearing more efficient, the new reform helps the case take into account

newly discovered factual or procedural errors, while not affecting the portrayal of events.

"The case can take on a different complexion the second time around," explained Spears. "If you were one of the accused, you might now understand that you might be better off presenting your case a different way, plus you're presenting to a different group of people."

The second recommendation prohibits students from withdrawing temporarily from the College with a judicial case pending. As stated in Spears' memo, such a delay of a hearing makes it difficult to reconvene witnesses and solicit accurate testimony.

"We want to avoid a situation in which, for example, one student charges another with inappropriate behavior, and the accused withdraws, waits for the issue to die down or the accuser to graduate, and then applies for readmission, thus hoping to avoid responsibility for his or her actions," Judicial Affairs Officer Gus Jordan wrote in an e-mail.

The third recommendation was intended to provide flexibility to accused students by giving them the option of meeting with the Judicial Affairs Officer and receiving discipline, foregoing a hearing altogether.

"I think there are times when a student makes a mistake, and knows it, and regrets it, and would rather work with a dean directly," Jordan wrote in an email. "In the past, all of the most serious incidents on campus would go to a judicial board. Now, if a student recognizes that he or she was in the wrong, the student can work with me directly on an appropriate remedy or response."

The recommendations are an effort by the

College to allow students to become more involved in their judicial process.

"The changes seem to hold Middlebury students explicitly responsible for their actions and for engaging in the process as soon as a case is prepared for hearing," Terry said.

In the same line of thinking, Spears and other administrators considered giving students more responsibility in a complete overhaul of the judicial system.

However, the undertaking of such a renovation would be very complicated, requiring a great deal of student initiative.

"If you're going to move in that direction, it would probably make sense to have students push that initiative," said Spears. "I think some students have been interested in making wholesale big changes like that but no one is stepping forward."

There has, however, been positive feedback to the idea.

"Students should recognize a social responsibility," Terry said. "When I talk to new freshman each fall about the academic honor code, students have as many questions about drinking infractions and sexual harassment as they do about plagiarism. I support the idea in theory and would be a strong advocate of its realization."

Informing students of judicial matters is also high on the administration's agenda. In the next week, Spears and others will be setting up a Web Site where each incident is recorded for students to help them understand the system.

"We'd like to explain to students as transparently as we can how the process works," Spears said.

public safety log

January 3 - January 6, 2008

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
1/3/2008	11:51 p.m.	Theft	Gator	FIC	Referred to MPD
1/4/2008	1:40 a.m.	Vandalism	Vending	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
1/5/2008	8:55 a.m.	Theft	Rug	McCullough	Referred to Commons Dean
1/5/2008	4:00 a.m.	Vandalism	Fire Safety	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
1/6/2008	9:37 p.m.	Drug Violation	Possession	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
1/6/2008	2:21 a.m.	Vandalism	Wall Lamp	Ross Tower	Referred to Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving nine alcohol citations between Jan. 3 and Jan. 6.



no, not *that* kind of chocolate bar...

by Tamara Hilmes, Local News Editor

College's plans for Main St. space bring excitement, concern

Over the summer, talk began about the College possibly leasing the space at 51 Main Street, the former home of Eat Good Food, a restaurant that went out of business last spring. In late December, Dean of College Tim Spears that Middlebury College would be opening a "chocolate bar" in the space, which he hopes to have up and running by February of this year.

A "chocolate bar," Spears explained, resembles a bar or a coffee house and also operates in a similar fashion. This café/lounge-type establishment would serve chocolate on a piecemeal basis, or in other words, in individual servings rather than in boxes. The idea for a "chocolate bar," which Spears devised after a series of meetings with students and townspeople over the course of the summer and fall, follows a growing national trend.

"Chocolate is really becoming very trendy and sexy," said Spears. "It is really becoming a groovy international product. For instance, I heard on NPR that in South America they are replanting the Amazon region with cacao plants in order to help with ozone problems. Also, the *New Yorker* recently wrote about the 'mystical' qualities of chocolate. There has also been a lot of talk about dark chocolate and its health benefits. Also, who doesn't like chocolate?"

Spears thought a chocolate bar would be appropriate after students and townspeople expressed a desire to see a business similar to Calvi's, an old-fashioned soda fountain that used to be located downtown, return to Main Street.

"I was compelled by the idea of Calvi's, as there isn't an ice cream place in town," Spears said. "Ice cream was a lot more complicated, though, and involved a lot more overhead. In the end, the chocolate bar provided an easier way of doing the sweet thing. And a chocolate bar has sort of a hip, urban feel."

The final decision to convert the Main Street space into a chocolate bar was made partially in an attempt to find a business to occupy the space during the day, when the space was not being used as a regular bar. As Spears explained, the plan is to have the chocolate bar operating during the day, and then to have it transform into a bar and lounge at night and on weekends.

"Apart from the wonders of chocolate," said Spears, "we needed the space to be flexible in order to change over from a chocolate bar to a real bar. Since we couldn't have the prime downtown space just sitting there vacant during the day, we needed to find some sort of retail activity to fill it during midday."

Along with serving chocolate, during the day the venue will also serve beverages such as coffee and tea, and it will also serve as a retailer for books by faculty member or even possibly CDs of student a capella groups, as well as a social space for students and locals alike to gather. Spears envisions the space as "a great big living room that people will be drawn to day or night." By night, the space will operate as a regular bar, serving "a variety of beer and wine" along with non-alcoholic beverages for its patrons who are not yet of age.

The chocolate bar and nighttime venue will be run by a governing board or program committee, comprised of students and staff, which will determine what the space will look like, what products it will sell and what events will take place in the space. There is also the possibility of student employment positions at the chocolate bar, although additional non-student staff will need to be hired for the actual management of it. Staffing models are already being considered by Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette and Assistant Treasurer of the College Tim Corbin, according to Spears.

continued on page 6 . . .

A Sweet Revival

The chocolate bar will fill some of the void left by the disappearance of Calvi's Restaurant and Soda Fountain



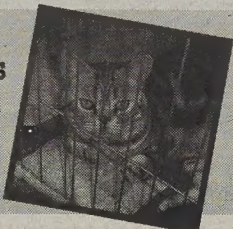
Elizabeth Zevallos
Construction underway on
the chocolate bar



Courtesy
Calvi's, the beloved soda fountain
that once stood on Main St.

Fancy Felines

Cat Show in Burlington leaves
everyone purring, page 7

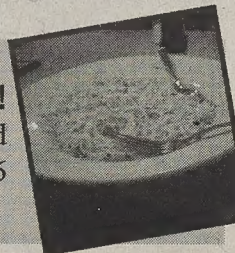


Historic Home Damaged

Teen vandals ransack Homer Noble Farm,
page 7

Pepper up!

Restaurant guaranteed to end
back-from-break blues, page 6



localflavor

by Tamara Hilmes, Local News Editor

Green Peppers offers family atmosphere, affordability

As college students, many of us chose to travel thousands of miles from home in order to attend our quaint little college amidst the Green Mountains. While we are usually too busy juggling classwork with extracurriculars and spending time with friends to miss the families that we left behind, every once in a while we feel a pang in our stomachs, literally — and Atwater just cannot compete with a home-cooked meal. So where better to escape to than a locally-owned and -operated restaurant with great food and a “family” atmosphere? Green Peppers, “A Middlebury Family Restaurant” according to its Web site and menu, is the perfect destination for both the homesick and those who are sick of recent dining hall offerings.

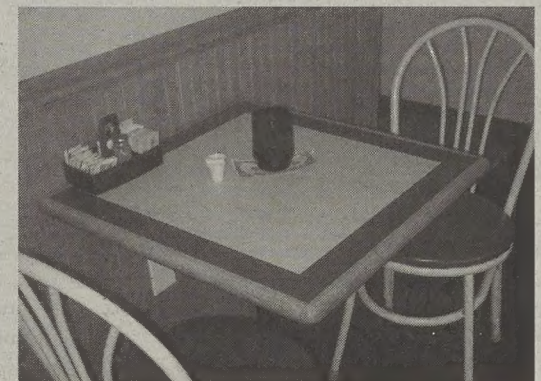
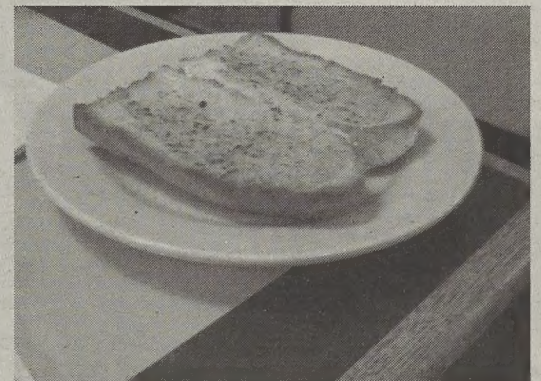
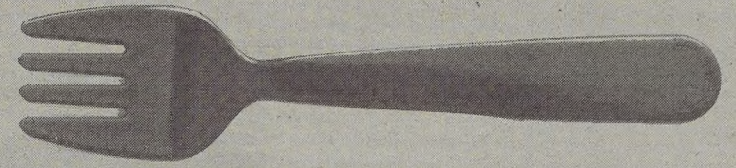
Green Peppers, located on Washington Street in the white building in the Shaw’s parking lot, is the perfect escape from student-filled dining halls. Because it caters mostly to the locals because of its distance from campus, you are more likely to run into middle-aged townspeople than someone from your Microeconomics class. Living up to its self-given title, Green Peppers is a very small and homey restaurant with just one tiny dining room with a couple rows of booths and some small tables with chairs. The décor is simple but sweet, with Ansel Adams prints juxtaposed with pages torn from coloring books presumably the work of the restaurant’s younger patrons. Depending on the time of day, you can either seat yourself or you may have to wait to be seated, but either way you are sure to be attended to right away by one of the many friendly servers.

Green Peppers serves their full menu every day of the week from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. on week-ends. Their menu, on first glance, does not appear too

overwhelming until you realize that along with all of the great menu items they offer, there are also “Create Your Own” options beneath each section of the menu. Green Peppers offers you the opportunity to build your own sandwiches, pizza, pasta or salad with your choice of meats, veggies, cheeses and sauces or dressings to create a custom combination of flavors. If you are feeling lazy or are simply too indecisive, you are sure to be safe by ordering one of the many house specials listed on Green Peppers’ menu, such as the “Z Special,” a pizza loaded with mozzarella, onions, green peppers, pepperoni, sausage, meatballs, mushrooms and anchovies if you “say yes to fish!” Green Peppers also boasts other specialty pizzas including Taco or Buffalo Chicken, which, like all of their pizzas, can be ordered by the slice or in a small, medium or large pie.

Green Peppers serves up all the great Italian favorites like spaghetti and meatballs and meat and veggie grinders, as well as American favorites like the Turkey Club or a burger, all for a very reasonable price. A sandwich and fries, for instance, would only cost you around \$5. Green Peppers certainly ranks high on the affordability scale, given that even the bigger entrees, like a bowl of pasta, will only cost you around \$7 — and that even includes the garlic bread.

So if you are beginning to wake up drooling after dreaming about those home-cooked meals you so recently left behind, give Green Peppers a chance and you are sure to get your fill of warm, fuzzy feelings and warm, delicious food all for a very reasonable price. And hey, maybe you can even guilt your parents into paying for it the next time you talk to them on the phone.



photos by Tamara Hilmes

Chocolate bar to sweeten ‘town-gown’ ties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

One of the most important aspects of this new business venture, according to Spears, is that it will provide a new social space that is different from anything found on campus, as well as a space for “town-gown” events — those that bring the community and the College together in one space. Faculty members could possibly give talks, local artists could display their art in the space and student organizations involved with local teens could meet, all in this single space, according to Spears.

“People in the community are excited to have the opportunity to work closely with Middlebury students,” Spears said. “Sometimes people from town have an interest in what’s going on at the College, but are reluctant to go up on campus. This way we can bring a little bit of the College to the town, as well as bring more students — downtown. It is a good thing for everybody, much like the sharing of creative energy involved in the Town Hall Theater partnership.”

“I’m psyched that something is going in,” said Rachel Teachout, an employee at Belladonna, the business located directly below the space at 51 Main. “It’s a good idea, and anything up there is better than an empty space.”

Teachout did express some concern, however, that the College’s plan was yet unclear. “It is still very undefined to a lot of people,” she said. “I’m interested to see how they are going to narrow it down.”

Other members of the community also expressed some concern as to the College’s decision to open a chocolate bar on Main St. John Melanson, owner of Carol’s Hungry Mind Café, said he was disappointed when he heard the news.

“Honestly, at first I thought, ‘they’re opening another coffee house,’” he said. “Some people think that it will be an extension of the campus and that students will still want to get away from that, but it still provides a space for social meetings. Now there will be two options where I used to hold an

exclusive position in town. We were one of the only places to linger, and now there will be another place to do the same thing.”

“I’m trying to be optimistic,” Melanson continued. “The hardest part is the coffee and the tea. If they had stuck with nightlife it would have been fine, because we are not open at night except on weekends.”

Other local business owners have also expressed concern in regards to the College’s chocolate bar. According to Matt White, an employee at Middlebury Market and Sama’s Café, one of the owners of Two Brothers Tavern entered the market “pretty ticked off” after hearing that the bar would be serving alcohol to students. Holmes Jacobs, one of the owners of Two Brothers, was unavailable for comment when the paper went to press.

“I can’t speak for the managers,” said White, “but I’m sure that Sama and Marie

will be fine with it. I’m totally cool with it. From my own personal perspective, if they have live music that would awesome.”

Spears stressed that the College

has no interest in stepping on the toes of local business.

“Competition is the nature of business,” he said. “It comes with the territory, and some people in town think, the more business the better. But we are not interested in competing head-to-head with places like Carol’s.” Spears went on to say that the College has had several meetings with Melanson to try to convey that they understand his precarious economic situation and to offer ways to help. “We are certainly not trying to duplicate what Carol’s does,” he said.

“My biggest fear is that it will be a coffee and tea venue,” said Melanson. “Of course, they say, ‘let’s let the market decide,’ but in reality they have no bottom line in terms of resources. The College is the biggest thing in this town, but without it the town wouldn’t be as big as it is. Without the College, I wouldn’t have as many customers as I do. And I like the idea of the workshops bringing in more people, although if they offer tea and coffee right after, then that presents another

problem.”

Spears said he hopes to see the chocolate bar up and running by February of this year, although he did concede that a lot of work has yet to be done before that will be possible.

“This is very exciting,” Spears said, “but we can’t do it overnight, and there are going to be adjustments along the way. I’m not pre-

dicting an overnight sensation.”

Before the chocolate bar can be up and running, Spears pointed out, it needs a name. For those interested in offering possible names for the venue, Spears announced in a recent entry on his blog that the committee would be holding a contest to choose a name for the business. The winner of the contest will receive — what else — chocolate.



Tamara Hilmes

MAIN STREET MUSICAL CHAIRS

Formerly located on Park St., Carolyn’s Closet will soon be making the move to Main St. They will be occupying the space left empty by Main St. Stationery earlier this fall.

Felines fancy 'Best in Show' title

By Kelly Janis

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Cat lovers pounced on a purr-fect opportunity to bond with some of the finest of the fuzzy creatures in question at the 11th Annual Vermont Fancy Felines Cat Show, held Jan. 5 and 6 at the Sheraton Conference Center in Burlington. The show — which each year attracts animals and owners from across the United States and, in some cases, the world — is one of several similar to it organized by the Cat Fanciers' Association, "dedicated to the preservation of the pedigreed cat, and to enhancing the well-being of all cats."

At the Sheraton this weekend, visitors milled around energetically, proudly displaying the blue paw print stamped on their hand to signal admission as they mingled with row after row of 30 distinct feline breeds. Some of the crates in which the cats rested as they awaited their turn with the judges were plastered with ribbons boasting of such accolades as "7th Best in Premiership" and signs announcing "Kittens for Sale!," while others sounded such grave warnings as "do not touch — your kind affection may spread infection!"

Meanwhile, vendors were on hand to furnish cat lovers with their every need, no matter how obscure — from a woman wearing black clothing and a sober expression, standing at a table of pet tombstones and speaking in hushed tones to a sparse selection of passers-by about "your cat's final arrangements," to purveyors of the more ordinary combs, brushes, litter, catnip, books, furniture and obligatory "I love my cat" bumper stickers.

In addition to the show, Vermont Fancy Felines held a Saturday night auction of homemade Vermont crafts to benefit the Humane Society of Chittenden County.

At the heart of the weekend for many, however, was the accumulation of the ribbons necessary to attain — or maintain — "champion" status in subsequent shows.

According to Brian Moser, who traveled



Kelly Janis

Judge Pam Moser assesses a feline contestant's worthiness to advance to the championship.

from Oregon to serve as a judge, each breed of cat is rated on the basis of unique criteria, though factors such as structure, color and eye and ear shape are typically paramount.

The top 10 cats in a given category then converge to be presented to the audience, in commentary about each competitor's "sleek coat" and "long body," interspersed with spontaneous, cooing side conversations with the animal under scrutiny: "you're doing so well for your first show!" to the kitten whose proud owner announced that she was a newcomer to the scene, and "you sure like to talk, don't you?" to the silver long-hair cat who would not stop meowing into the presenter's microphone during the Parade of Breeds.

Win or lose, cat owners reap valuable benefits from such shows.

"It's a great thing for anybody to get into," said Susan Bowers, who had been showing cats for the past eight years. "It's a lot of fun.

It's an expensive hobby, but it's worth it for the love of the cats."

"This little Siamese is the pearl of my life," said Elaine VanAvery as she peered into the crate in front of her. She described her pastime as a welcome diversion from the daily grind. "You forget all of problems you have during the week in your real world, in your job. And it's nice chatting with people who share a common interest."

But do matters ever turn, ahem, *catty*?

"There's a higher level of competition than people want to openly admit," VanAvery said. "We have a competitive instinct. It's there."

When asked whether a spirit of camaraderie or competition prevails, Moser was quick to concur. "It's a great community, and they have their social events," he said. "But there isn't a person here who doesn't want to become a champion."

Local youths ravage poet's abode

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

identified the 17-year old Ripton resident who allegedly planned and organized the party — originally conceived of as a joint New Year's Eve and birthday celebration — as well as the 22-year old Middlebury resident who furnished underage attendees with significant quantities of alcohol, neither of whose names have been released.

The act of vandalism against the farm — officially designated as a National Historic Landmark — has resonated strongly with those possessing ties to it.

"We are dismayed [by] the event," wrote Carole Thompson, director of the Robert Frost Stone House Museum in Shaftsbury, Vt., in an e-mail. She noted that the occurrence is not the first of its kind. Several years ago, the home in Derry, N.H. where the poet and his family resided for 11 years while he experimented with poultry farming and wrote in his spare time was defaced by spray paint.

The College's own community of poets voiced similar sentiments.

"[The Homer Noble Farm] is the most precious thing owned by the College, by far," Parini said. "Robert Frost is the voice of America, and New England especially."

"Whether you call it a sacred place or a shrine, it's very rich culturally, and physically, and in its literary history," said Executive Director of College Mental Health Services and Associate Professor of English and American Literatures Gary Margolis. "It's a very special place."

Both Margolis and Parini reminisced fondly about the occasions on which they have stayed at the Homer Noble Farm during the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

"I would take baths in Robert Frost's bathtub," Parini said. "I would imagine him standing at the sink shaving, while I lay in the tub. The place is certainly haunted by Robert Frost."

So, should the perpetrators fear the poet's vengeful ghost?

"I think it's extremely unlikely these teenagers had anything against Robert Frost," Parini said. "It's no conscious effort to defile a sacred property. It's a kind of ignorance."

Thompson agreed.

"These things don't have anything to do with Frost," she wrote. "It's just bad behavior of kids taking advantage of a situation."

Still, Margolis pointed out, the particular situation of which they chose to avail themselves is disturbing.

"It's not uncommon that high school students have parties and look for places to party," he said. "But given that apparently these are local high school students, somehow I wonder, where's the disconnect? If they grew up around here, they would know that the place is somehow special, even if they didn't know all of the facts. If you know a place is special in a particular way — even if you're out to have a good time, or party — how come somebody in that group of 40 or 50 people didn't say, 'hey, you know, let's just stand in the field and drink. Do we really have to break into this place?'"

The shockwaves of the teens' decision have extended widely.

"It's interesting to me that this story has gone around the world," Parini said. "I just got an e-mail from a friend in Chile who said this story was on the front page of their newspaper. Frost is beloved around the world."

Thompson said her organization has received numerous expressions of concern in the wake of the vandalism, including a phone call from one of Robert Frost's granddaughters. In addition, she has fielded e-mails from both local residents and Frost aficionados from across the nation, many of whom adamantly insist upon a decisive response.

"Prison is too good for them," wrote Oakhurst, Calif. resident Jan Claire of the perpetrators in an e-mail to Friends of Robert Frost. "They should be made to pay back every cent of damage they caused, and their parents as well. And in Vermont of all places. The most perfect place in the country to raise a family."

According to Hodsden, the penalty for likely charges of unlawful trespassing, vandalism and underage drinking will be determined by the state's attorney.

"These kids need to take responsibility for what they have done," he said.

Aside from punitive matters, however, many view the event as an opportunity to cultivate positive results.

"I hope this prompts Middlebury [College] to install a security system," Thompson wrote. "At least they can install a locked gate to keep out vehicular traffic, which will repel delivery of party supplies."

Parini agreed. "It's extremely crucial that the College reconsider its security measures up there," he said. "The house was basically unsecured, or else this couldn't have happened."

Hodsden expressed doubts, however, about the feasibility of eliminating the site's vulnerability altogether. "We live in Vermont," he said. "We can't put a 24-hour watch on that spot." What may be possible, he said, is the installation of an alarm which, in the event of trespassers, would alert the College's Department of Public Safety, who could dispatch police to respond as necessary.

"But given where it is," Margolis said, "the state police and the town police are still a half hour away."

Ultimately, to Parini, the vandalism registers as an apt means of initiating a constructive dialogue.

"There are many ways this could be used as a teaching opportunity to talk to the nation about the value of poetry," he said.

Margolis agreed, suggesting that disciplinary action against the perpetrators should entail more than merely shelling out financial restitution.

"I would hope they would build in more than that," he said. "I would hope there would be an educational component, an opportunity for them to learn about this place they were just in, a place unique to where they live. And maybe they would have to write a poem about it."

local lowdown

your source for upcoming events in the community

Weekend of Music

The After Dark Music Series continues at 7 p.m. on Jan. 18 at the United Methodist Church with Austin's "Elana James and The Continental Two." Leading the group is a violinist and singer who is among the youngest to earn a place in the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame, and promises to invigorate her Vermont crowd in the same style for which she is renowned. Tickets — which are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door — are available at several in-town venues or by phone. For more information, call 802-388-0216 or visit the series' Web site at www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

And if James' hot jazz, Western swing and gypsy music does not sufficiently quench your musical thirst, check out the following acts also playing in Middlebury in days to come:

Honeywell
Jan. 10, at 10 p.m.
Two Brothers Tavern

Bill Yantz' British Invasion
Jan. 12, from 4-6 p.m.
Two Brothers Tavern

The Gordon Stone Band
Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m.
Carol's Hungry Mind Café

Martin Sheen and Electric Cars

Join the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN) on Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Ilsley Library community room for "Who Killed the Electric Car?," a 2006 Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary, narrated by Martin Sheen, which probes the dawn, limited commercialization and rapid decline of the battery electric vehicle in the United States. Following the film, ACoRN will lead a discussion about automobile manufacturers, the oil industry and the evolving face of cars of the future. (They'll have wings? And... and...? Maybe you can concoct something more inspiring prior to the event.)

CPR and First Aid Classes at Ilsley

The American Red Cross will be offering adult, child and infant CPR and first aid training at Ilsley Public Library on Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Prospective participants are asked to pre-register by calling 1-800-660-9130 ex. 113, or e-mailing jrusell@nvtredcross.org.

By all hopes, you can emerge from an eight-hour day at Ilsley without succumbing yourself to the need for a few chest compressions.

Otter Creek = free ski pass

In the mood for a little skiing? Never mind. It's Winter Term at Middlebury, after all. Stupid question.

At any rate, if the Snow Bowl's growing old, and you're looking to branch out, ski mid-week at Mount Snow, Sugarbush, Mad River Glen or Jay Peak — for free, simply by presenting a ticket from Otter Creek Brewing at the ticket window!

Coupons are available at the store itself, by e-mailing info@ottercreekbrewing.com or by going the old-fashioned route — whipping out some paper and a pen and writing to:

Otter Creek Brewing
attn: Ski Coupons
793 Exchange St
Middlebury, VT 05753

(Oh, and, uh, the obligatory fine print: "Must be 21 or older. No purchase necessary...")

The Middlebury Campus

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editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the Editorial Board.

Gearing up for a new year

With the capital campaign gathering speed, the upcoming opening of the Donald E. Axinn '51 Center at Starr Library slated for this summer and the affiliation between the College and the Monterey Institute of International Studies blossoming, 2008 promises to be a big year for Middlebury College. Students can expect to see the first significant alterations to the commons system in over 10 years. Applications arriving in record numbers could change the dynamics of the student body. The College's growing presence in town may provide students with more opportunities for social and cultural exchange with local residents.

These developments, however, should not mask the issues on campus that warrant attention. As students settle in for the daily grind, we offer a few suggestions for inclusion on the College's list of New Year's resolutions.

Taking on Tenure

An assessment of the process by which the College reviews and tenures its professors should take top priority for the faculty and administration this year. The College's current system, adopted decades ago, is outdated and, though designed with good intentions, is ill suited to today's classroom. The focus on punitive evaluation fosters an atmosphere of anxiety and restriction for un-tenured professors, and the strict tenure timeline not only stifles academic creativity but also complicates the balance between personal and professional life.

Furthermore, while necessarily confidential, the current process does not allow for administrative transparency, alienating large portions of the community invested in building a strong faculty. Including younger faculty members and potentially student representatives in review committees would foster a greater diversity of voices. In the coming year, the College should commit itself to, at the very least, undertaking a thorough examination of the effectiveness of the review process.

Reevaluating the Playing Field

In the wake of a highly successful fall sports season, in which the College brought home one national championship and several conference titles, Middlebury is poised to reflect both on the nature of athletic excellence at the College and the necessary balance between the classroom and the playing field. It is time to start asking some important questions. How will the increase in applications to the institution affect athletic recruiting? How will the College maintain an emphasis on academics over athletics, particularly as Division III academic regulations ease? Would the College benefit from the creation of and move to a smaller, more academically minded athletic division?

Activate the Student Body

Finally, students must not lose sight of this year's importance in the world outside of the Middlebury. With primary elections already underway in the most wide-open presidential race of our lives, the time has come for Middlebury students to shed their reputation as well-meaning but apathetic citizens. Though there are students on campus who are deeply involved in political and social movements, the majority is content to politely abstain from heated political debate. Students should encourage each other and their professors to tackle important political topics, both inside and outside of the classroom. The forum that arose in the wake of last fall's controversial poster campaigns was the perfect example of constructive dialogue. Especially in the months leading up to the Nov. 4 election, such debates could serve to inform the student body and personalize larger national issues.

Ultimately, the shape of the new year will be determined by those who step up to the plate. What we will see in 2008 is up to the outspoken, engaged members of this community. We hope you will be one of them.

contact the campus

To contact The Middlebury Campus Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail: campus@middlebury.edu

or find us on the web at: www.middleburycampus.com



Don't worry; New Year's resolutions don't kick in until February in Middlebury.

Columnist illustrations by Christina Spencer

Sam Dakota Milller

Shenanigans: Alex Garlick Special Interests in Washington



There's a 16-letter, two-word combo that Democratic candidates John Edwards and Barack Obama say with disgust, as if it were four traditional four-letter curse words crammed into one — special interests. Listening to Edwards and Obama denounce the evil that is special interests makes one think they are denouncing the devil himself, or at least Dick Cheney. In Saturday night's ABC/Facebook debate, Obama even claimed that this is the purpose of a new style of politics: "What I think that we're seeing here in New Hampshire is a hunger for a different kind of politics that is very specific about pushing aside special interests that have come to dominate the agenda and the debate, reducing the power of lobbyists: something that I have done." Not to be outdone, Edwards took an even

stronger stance: "You know, I'm the candidate up here who's never taken a dime from a Washington lobbyist in my entire time in public life or a dime from a special interest PAC. The first day that I'm president of the United States, there will be no corporate lobbyists working in my White House."

Unfortunately for these two candidates with a combined service of nine years in the Senate, I think the notion that special interests could simply be "pushed aside" or excluded from the policy process is naïve. There is no way a newly elected president is going to rid Washington of all its "special interests" and lobbyists. An office on K Street is just as permanent, if not more so, than one on Pennsylvania Avenue. In many ways, Washington is built to resist change. It is structured to maintain the power of the people in power.

Don't forget who exactly these special interests represent — Americans! Sure, a majority of Democrats may not agree with the NRA, but there are plenty of Democrats in that organization of more than four million members. I liken this phenomenon to the fact that Americans are typically happy with their congressman, but generally disappointed with the actions of Congress as a whole. This is because congressmen represent the wishes of their constituents, and obviously Americans

do not agree with each other. Well, millions of Americans pull out their checkbooks when this non-profit group comes calling, so should they really get to lament the presence of special interests in Washington? It's not that Americans dislike special interests, it's just that we don't like other people's interests.

Look at Edwards once again. While he is ignoring special interests, do you think he will forget the Trial Lawyers of America? Edwards is very proud of his time as a litigator, so surely he would not mind their interests being lobbied in the nation's capitol. What about his inspirational story about his father working in a mill town for 37 years? A union is the best chance for a millworker to provide for his family. Will Edwards kick them out of his White House as well?

This is not an endorsement of the influence special interests have in Washington. Dwight Eisenhower warned of a military-industrial complex about 50 years ago that may be driving our foreign policy more than we care to admit. But if a president-elect were to come to Washington intent on just fighting special interests, that is all he would be doing. A good campaign stance is not necessarily a wise policy to follow while governing.

Alex Garlick '08.5 is a Political Science and Economics major from Needham, Mass.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of The Middlebury Campus provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. The Campus will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday. The Campus reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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notes from the desk: Jay Dolan

Professional athletes, not worth the fuss

I wouldn't call myself a sports buff. I like watching sports, but let's face it, when it comes to having a debate on which team is better, I usually just make stuff up. I essentially try to fake what little knowledge I have about professional sports. Why do I do this? I suppose it's to look more masculine. I don't know why, because sports knowledge does not dictate masculinity. In fact, my weekly Grille trivia team is carried through the sports questions by my friend Lauren. I try to act like I know the answers, but she puts me to shame.

Despite my shortcomings in the world of sports, both watching and playing them, I have begun to build upon what little knowledge I have. This has occurred for two reasons. One, Winter Term is a month in which I can afford to waste time, and two, my television does not have a remote. Therefore, the TV stays tuned in to ESPN. Rarely will I change the channel. When I do, I change it to some other sporting event.

The other day, my TV was playing endless repeats of "SportsCenter." Anyone watching ESPN lately

will know that there has been a lot of coverage on the Roger Clemens steroid scandal. As I pretended to read a research article for class, I couldn't help but notice the segment which portrayed various sports figures admitting to mistakes they have made in the past. Some of these mistakes included Michael Vick's dog-rearing days, Todd Bertuzzi's punch to the back of Steve Moore's head and Kobe's admittance to committing adultery. These actions, along with others, seemed pretty bad considering children look up to these athletes.

The questions I ask after hearing about the scandals is: why do we care about these people? And why do we think these athletes are role models? Americans are obsessed with their professional sports. Additionally, America is obsessed with all of the scandals that come along with them. Professional sports are entertaining, but I will never understand the obsessions people have for individual athletes. Too many people forget that activities such as football and basketball are team sports. I understand that Belichick, Brady and Moss are the stars, but last time

I checked, you don't play a football game with three people.

I'm running off on a tangent, so I'll get back to my point of why professional athletes are not worth idolizing. Some may argue that there are countless examples of talented, charitable and good-natured sports stars. While I believe there are athletes out there who I could leave alone with my dog without worry, I still can't get over how many of them are flat-out liars, or just bad people. The real tragedy of it all is that most of them get away with it. They make ridiculous amounts of money for being a bad person that can play a game.

I guess it's the reality of the world we live in. Just look at our celebrities. Most of them, especially the young ones, are messed up in the head. They belong in jail or in mental institutions, not in magazines or movies. People often complain about living in the "Middlebury bubble," but when it comes to exposure to cocky athletes or insane movie stars, I'd rather be a bubble boy.

Jay Dolan '08 is an Opinions editor from Richmond, Va.

heard on campus

Chocolate is really becoming very trendy and sexy. It is really becoming a groovy international product.

— Dean of the College Tim Spears talking about the plan for a new chocolate bar downtown.

a preface to lunch:

James O'Brien

Loose Change

During Winter Break, while the religious folk were busy gathering frankincense and myrrh to prepare for the birth of Jamie Lynn Spears' little messiah, I was sitting on my couch, sorting through America's problems for the Barack Obama campaign. Barack's people called me years ago when he first ran for the Senate because he needed some help figuring out what America wants to hear — I've been working for him ever since. Through extensive research, I helped to discover something that politicians have known for years: Americans are not content with their lives, and this fact will swing every single political election until little Jesus Lynn Spears is old enough to show the world that love is the answer.

Let's look at recent American history. Our 42nd president, William Jefferson Clinton, was a Rhodes Scholar, a terrific saxophonist and a hit with the ladies. After eight years, America just didn't feel good. So we came up with reasons for our discontent — or the Republicans did. America is morally bankrupt, they said, and it's all thanks to Big Bill and the Dems. So we elected George W. Bush, a D student and former alcoholic who looked like a monkey. And we got change. Bush decided that war was the best idea for the country. And we looked around and thought, "Yeah, our lives aren't great ... and they're in danger!" To war we went. And then the war went on too long, and we all started to make a weird face — we looked like a bad guy in one of the "Mission Impossible" movies. The war had pulled off its incredibly life-like mask and showed that it was not a war at all. It was Tom Cruise. And we were pissed.

So you would figure that we would want Bush gone to bring in the Vietnam vet, water-sport enthusiast, long-headed John Kerry. But discontented America still sometimes likes to do the unexpected. America is spiteful. So collectively we said, what the hell? Tom Cruise isn't that bad, right? Remember "Top Gun?" The part when he sings?

So as Obama — his first name was Reginald back then — was sizing up his presidential campaign, I told him two things: first, he would

have to change his name to Barack. And second, he would have to become black.

At first, he was skeptical, but I told him my two principles to remember: First, America is tricky and second, America is unhappy with itself, no matter what. Obama wanted to fire me. He said that America would never elect a black man. I told him that, on the contrary, he would fill the void left by David Palmer on "24." America finally knows that a black man can run the country — they just don't know why. After you are elected, I told Barack, the people will also surprise themselves by demanding that Obama name Kiefer Sutherland, star of "The Lost Boys," to head the CIA. I told him not to be alarmed.

What other advice did I give to Barack's people? Say more stuff that will outrage the average American. Like, remember when Obama admitted that he had experimented with cocaine? That was my idea. He never did cocaine or even Coca-Cola (he was actually really into Surge before they took it off the market), but I figured his cokehead confession would gain him a few points in the polls. At first, it seemed like my strategy had backfired. The Evangelicals and the Spears myrrh-gatherers were abhorred. So was my grandmother, in fact. She said something stereotypical like, "Well ... I never!" when she heard Barack's confession on the news. But who is Grandma voting for? Obama! Because Grandma loves cocaine and so does America.

I suggested that the sequel to Obama's book "The Audacity of Hope" should be called "The Audacity of Hope II: America, You Suck and I Can Also Do That As Well." Barack liked the idea, but he said long titles don't sell books. He did, however, agree with my point: Americans are no longer after honesty or hope because they realize those things don't exist. Americans want "change." No one has ever told them they suck. They may be shocked at first, but eventually they will love it because it's something new. It's change.

James O'Brien '10 is a new columnist and an English major from Medfield, Mass.

op-ed: Andrew Torre

The S (Socialism) CHIP factor

With our economy seemingly headed into rough waters, it might help suffering Americans to better understand some of the things they're up against in seeking relief. Ironically, we are given a partial insight from the Great Obfuscator himself, George Bush.

When Congress passed the State Children's Insurance Program (CHIP) legislation that would have provided an additional 4.6 million children with health care coverage, Bush vetoed the bill on the grounds that it could lead to "socialism." By implication, then, "socialism" would insure these needy kids, while capitalism won't — and indeed, that's the case.

In claiming that it's better not to insure kids than to have "socialism," Bush had to be pretty confident of the toxic effect the word has on Americans, most of whom don't really know what it means. For their benefit, socialism is, in essence, the people collectively owning and running the world by themselves and for themselves. It is eminently democratic in theory and, as such, has yet to exist on earth — not in the U.S.S.R., not in Cuba, nor anywhere else.

Socialism is certainly contrapublicism in its demand for public ownership and its substitution of need for profit as the singular motive of production. You can like it or not like it, but it's important to know exactly what it is, so you don't fall prey to propaganda and Bushite nonsense. As you see, providing 4.6 million children with guaranteed health care in no way meets the

above definition of "socialism," as Bush would have you believe. Every advanced nation besides the U.S. provides government-sponsored universal health care, and every one of them is unshakably capitalist.

So our president was once again employing a groundless scare tactic — this time to ensure that health care for our unprotected children be purchased for profit from private insurance companies. That is, if it's affordable, which it obviously isn't since the kids aren't covered.

The vacuous "socialist" threat is always pulled out by conservatives to thwart needed government help whenever the people are hurting — whether the need is public housing, job security, subsidized fuel, health care — you name it. They are capitalism's arch-apologists, demanding that everything be privatized and for profit, whether it's affordable or not for the many. And now, with the economic system lurching, there's less and less that hard-working people can afford. So something has to give.

This has great relevance for us here in Vermont, where there's been a long struggle to not only provide health care coverage for the over 40 thousand who have none, but to bring it up to snuff for the many who, because of cost, have inadequate protection. The legislature will consider a bill that provides government-sponsored comprehensive hospital care for anyone in Vermont who needs it. The conservative opposition will echo Bush and condemn it as "a step toward

complete government coverage" — which it may be — and shout "Socialism!" — which it isn't. They, like Bush, want the money to go into the hands of private insurers — whether this serves the people's real needs or not — perpetuating the very process that has brought about the crisis. Only a strong voice of the people will counter entrenched depressive notions, however false.

In 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt shook up Congress and the nation with his revolutionary Economic Bill of Rights. He spelled out what he considered inalienable human rights — not privileges — due every American, among them: "The right to a useful and remunerative job, the right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation, the right of every family to a decent home, the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health and the right to a good education."

Now FDR didn't say that these would be nice to have if you could afford them. He said it was the duty of the nation to see that they were provided to everyone. Yet this wealthy aristocrat, who helped resurrect American capitalism during its darkest hours of the Great Depression, was branded a "socialist" by fools.

If embracing FDR's humane Bill of Rights means being a "socialist," I'm sure every struggling American would gladly become one.

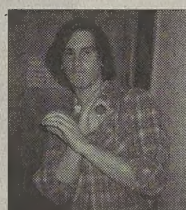
Andrew Torre is from Landgrove, VT.

the web poll: On a scale of one to stoked, how stoked are you for J-term?



"Seventeen."

— KAT HARTLEY '10



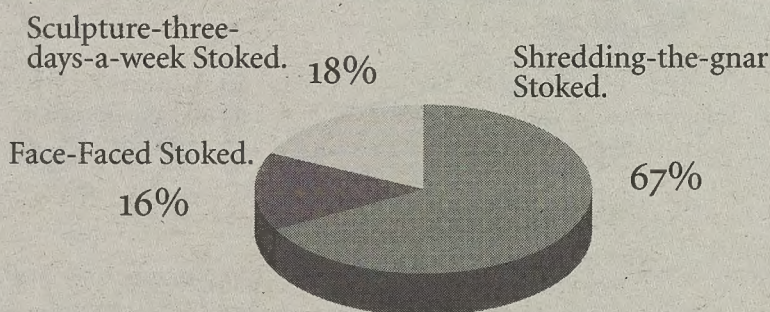
"I'm stoked for some whiskey sipping, misty flipping, pow sticking."

— IAN DURKIN '10.5



"I'm stoked for fight club. Wanna join?"

— STONE CONROY '10



Results taken from poll at www.middleburycampus.com

Next week's web poll: What do you think about the IHC's recommendation regarding The Mill?

op-ed: Nick DeSantis

Firing Essig was a mistake

I am writing to express my deep concern over a recent recommendation made by the College's faculty reappointments committee. At the end of the fall term, I completed my English senior essay with the help of two academic advisors. One of those advisors is not a member of my department, and she chose to take me on anyway because of her interest in my work. She slogged through Cormac McCarthy's horrifying and difficult novel "Blood Meridian" in order to better understand my project, and she helped me refine my essay and provided me with crucial support.

Considering that she works as the program advisor for all of the Sociology Department's thesis writers, she could have easily declined to take on another advisee, given her already heavy workload. However, she stuck with me in order to help me write a senior project that I could be proud of. My advisor was Professor Laurie Essig, and at the end of the term, the College's reappointments committee decided to show its appreciation for her hard work by recommending that the College fire her as of this spring.

The committee's recommendation to fire Laurie on the basis of her supposedly poor teaching is a grave mistake. Every Middlebury student should be as lucky as I was to have such a dedicated and effective professor. The committee took issue with Laurie's teaching methods, and their complaints are baseless. She engages her students in ways that make the classroom material fascinating, and she successfully translates course material into information that will be meaningful away from the confines of Middlebury. These skills are the hallmark of a great professor, and such skills are a rare find on this campus. Her commitment to engaged, real-world scholarship deserves high praise and stands in stark contrast to the world of tweed jackets that is traditional academia.

Having taken two courses with Professor Essig, I can say confidently that it is impossible to enter her classroom and not emerge with a wider understanding of the ways that power and identity operate in the world at large. Professor Essig also embraces technology like few of her colleagues, and her lectures demonstrate the potential of the new media classroom to deliver information that would be difficult to access otherwise. If the College administration chooses to uphold the review committee's recommendation, Middlebury will lose a professor who challenges her students to use what they learn in their lives away from Middlebury every day.

The reappointments committee also took issue with the fact that Laurie's classroom is

a politically charged environment. However, this is a positive characteristic and I can testify that it is not detrimental to a student's educational experience. Indeed, a completely apolitical classroom is a fiction of outdated political discourse and is impossible to actually achieve. While the nature of class discussions can make some students uncomfortable, these situations allow us to grow in ways that would be impossible in less challenging environments. The huge chorus of support from Laurie's students and colleagues in the Sociology Department indicate that she should be applauded for her willingness to tackle difficult and controversial issues.

Perhaps more importantly, Professor Essig is engaged with the student body away from the classroom in ways that few of her colleagues are. She is a major source of support for Middlebury's various minority communities. She was also given Middlebury's Feminist of the Year award last spring, and achievements such as these indicate that she provides Middlebury with some of the much-needed diversity that the administration claims to want. The College should be scrambling to retain such an engaged professor. Her potential firing indicates to me that the College's commitment to diversity borders on politically correct lip service. If the recommendation is not reversed, the reappointments committee — made up of three professors entirely unfamiliar with Laurie's unique areas of expertise — will have dealt a painful blow to the diversity and political engagement of the Middlebury community.

Professor Essig's value to the Middlebury community is clear to anyone who knows her, and I urge the reappointments committee to immediately reverse its reprehensible recommendation. Ultimately, if Professor Essig is fired, the students will be deprived of one of the College's best professors. Please understand that the reappointments committee suffers nothing by recommending that Professor Essig be fired. Instead, if the recommendation is upheld, the students are the ones who will bear the overwhelmingly negative consequences of this decision.

Over the course of my Middlebury career, I have met many students who have expressed a desire to take one of Professor Essig's classes. If you count yourself as a member of that group, I urge you to come to Chellis House at 4:00 on Friday afternoon. Together, we can fight to save Professor Essig's job before it is too late.

Nick DeSantis '07.5 is from Diamond Point, NY.

Skeptical Sisson: Douglas Sisson

Middlebury's dismal dating scene

"Would you like to have a cup of coffee with me sometime?" A simple question with various interpretations and unfortunately as close as it gets to a formal date here at Middlebury College. Even then, how many of you can claim to have actually gotten this far? Exactly. As full-time students attending a small liberal arts college in rural Vermont, meeting new people is limited by place and opportunity.

Dating takes time. A student's academic workload is the number one priority. Next, athletics, wellness, clubs, activities and sleep each compete for an already limited amount of time. We are human beings with basic sexual and emotional needs. Thus, dating is an investment of time with the prospect of establishing either a regular physical rendezvous or an emotionally engaging relationship. Each is a viable option and actively pursued by students here at the College. The only problem is that, while everyone considers dating, few people actually do it. Without a city nearby, our attention is almost exclusively focused inward upon the College. As if the pickings were not slim enough, the Faculty Council is considering a new policy aimed at prohibiting sexual relations between students and faculty. However, our administration cannot control our minds, so feel free to continue fantasizing about your favorite professors during class.

So where do students meet people to date? Parties and mutual friends are common ways to meet new people. Showing interest in someone from across a room typically involves excessive body language, strategic glances and flirting. Consuming alcohol is an effective social lubricant at this point because it lowers one's inhibitions. Still, the relentless game of hard-to-get makes trying to get a simple point across — "I want to make-out with you" — an anxiety-producing labyrinth with little hope of any clear or definitive answer.

Fear of rejection is what keeps people from verbally expressing interest in one another. As a result, dining halls become havens for curious stares while mutual friends serve as unofficial liaisons in a relentless game of triangulation. This is cute in mod-

eration but after awhile I just want to say: "Will you two just sleep with each other already!"

A Facebook friend request is an efficient and private method of showing interest in someone. In fact, I'd argue that online communication — e-mail, Facebook, AIM — is the most clear-cut and effective technique of getting an immediate response to see if your prospective crush sees you as someone on their platonic radar. Accepting someone as a friend does not mean you want to sleep with them. Overtly flirting with someone is less stressful when two people are at least 'friends' on Facebook. Poking some-

one on Facebook is always an option but its meaning is somewhat vague. Here's a better idea: walk up to the person you are interested in and actually have a conversation with them face-to-face.

Assuming the person is at least somewhat interested in you, the places and opportunities to go on a date are still limited. A close friend of mine once asked a crush to go "feed the horses" with her as an alternative to a date. I'd personally rather be riding the horses with a picnic basket and expertly chosen wine. One can dream, right? Either way, a creative date has the potential to reap greater benefits.

Dating is not necessary in one's undergraduate career. After all, students can choose to take the advice of the SNL Spartan cheerleaders: "Sex can wait, just masturbate!" And for those hoping to intimately cuddle with someone, you're probably better off sleeping with a stuffed animal. Still, it is a new year. Why not channel the energy used to explore online pornography and ask someone out on an alternative date? Of course, you might want to buy a bigger mattress before getting rid of your stuffed animal.

Douglas Sisson '07.5 is an International Studies/Latin America major from Oak Brook, Ill.



campuscolumnist



Turmoil in Kenya, failing democracy in Pakistan, global warming, continued violence in Iraq and the Middle East, economic recession -- Happy New Year.

John Birnbaum

want
to be
heard?

Submit a letter to the editor or an op-ed to campus@middlebury.edu and get your message out there

op-ed: Jordan Nassar
**Pending closure of
 The Mill a disgrace**

Fashion can wait this week, there are more important things to be discussed — and at the top of that list is the College's support of the segregation of this campus.

Allow me to start from the beginning.

Tuesday night, Jan. 8, 2008, at the Inter-House Council (IHC) meeting, The Mill was voted out of their house by their peers, under supervision of Doug Adams and Tim Spears. This is all due to alleged fire violations, but these were individual violations — yet, the entire organization is being punished. I would have assumed Middlebury would be above corporal punishment, but I guess not.

While I do believe that the individual members should be punished for their individual violations, the spring semester without a house seems to be the convenient and pointed solution on the College's part. Moreover, the prospect of the permanent loss of the house and the disbanding of the membership is not only absurd, but prejudiced.

The IHC alluded in the meeting to the "culture of the house," allegedly referring to fire violations made by its residents — but were Doug Adams to go into any of the other social houses or any dorm on campus, he would find similar violations.

I believe that the "culture" they refer to is more literal. Perhaps it refers to The Mill's large international membership? Or is it The Mill's large homosexual membership?

In light of last year's anti-gay vandalism, I would hope that a haven would be welcome on this campus.

This is what The Mill is — a social organization that welcomes and makes comfortable international, minority and homosexual students. Unfortunately for Middlebury College, there are still racial and gender issues on our campus — but fortunately The Mill exists. The members feel it is the only place that accepts them. It remains a place where — unlike all other social houses — anyone who is interested can and will become a member.

It remains a place where many nationalities and languages are not only present, but celebrated — and not as a language house, special interest house nor a club — but as an extended group of friends.

It is appalling that the student representatives of KDR, Delta, Tavern and Xenia would want to dissolve a fellow social house and displace many students interested in the social house system, but who feel unwelcome anywhere but The Mill. It is disgusting and unacceptable that the other social houses would not only vote against The Mill, but suggest this punishment, which, for the record, was not suggested by the College administration. I have no idea what would prompt other social houses to do this to The Mill.

Jordan Nassar '07.5 is from New York, N.Y. and a member of The Mill.



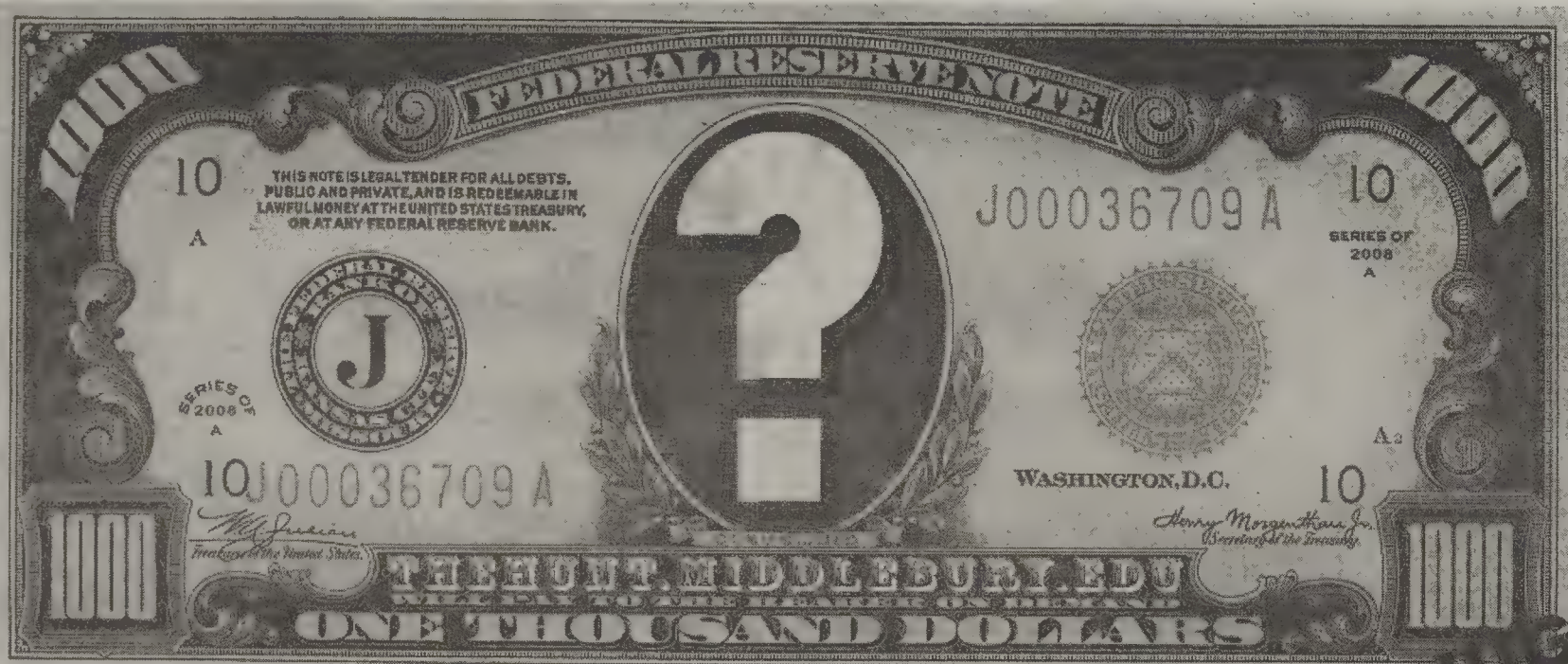
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thehunt.middlebury.edu

The Face of Service

As Mark once said to Hanky: "Ogres are like onions. Ogres have layers."

In this respect, liberal arts colleges are a lot like onions and onions they all have layers. Most students enter with just a few layers of Middlebury: friends, coaches and professors among them. We may be aware of several others: like the Commons, dining, maintenance, wellness, recreation staff and librarians, to name a few. But there are many more layers at Middlebury about which students

know next to nothing. These layers are no less important to the College than all the rest. The Campus decided to peel back the layers of Middlebury's onion to take a behind-the-scenes look at the roles of these people, who most students don't know. Commons Chef Richard O'Donohue, Middlebury Dining General Manager and Head Custodial Team Leader Donna Paquette.

By the way, Donna's response is short. "Yes, I know, but sometimes I don't know."

When I stand in a long line at Proctor waiting impatiently for the blue-uniformed server to replenish the supply of chicken parmesan, all I can think about is how good chicken parm is, how I cannot wait to eat it and how sad I will be when my stomach tells me there no room for more. As far as I am concerned, the red sauce-covered hunks of chicken — yes, I do eat several — are my reward from heaven for slogging through another day of classes.

But, as it turns out, that is not the case. Proctor head honcho Richard O'Donohue recently took me on a tour of his dining hall's cavernous basement kitchen, providing a behind-the-scenes look at how the 20 or so Proctor employees work together to create their culinary masterpieces.

No, I realized, the chicken parm does not come from heaven. As it turns out, O'Donohue and his colleagues put a lot of hard work, sweat and tears into the food that Middlebury students enjoy. (Actually, they try to keep their sweat and tears out. It is mostly just hard work).

An enthusiastic man who seems like he was born with a *toque blanche* on his head, O'Donohue started his career with Dining Services in 1988 as a cook in the Freeman International Center's three dining rooms. For the past four years, he has served as Proctor's Commons Chef, responsible for creating the menus and supervising activity in the kitchen.

Consistent with Middlebury's addiction to technology in seemingly useless places, O'Donohue has at his disposal a powerful computer database to help him plan even the simplest menus. While he does consult it frequently

for recipes and ingredients, he admits that every once in a while he likes to spice things up.

"Occasionally I'll go to a cooking Web site and if I see something that looks good, I'll try it," he said. So *that's* where that nameless, fantastic-tasting mush came from a few weeks ago.



Andrew Ngeow

First Cook Supervisor Paul Smith cleans up after cooking 20 gallons of soup.

Once O'Donohue creates the menus (usually four weeks in advance), First Cook Supervisor Paul Smith coordinates the preparation with the Second and Third Cooks. For the main dishes, Smith's team starts getting ingredients together the day before the meals are served. On the morning I visited, he had just finished preparing the soup for the lunch and dinner.

"We make all the soup for each day at

once," Smith said, pointing out three gigantic vats in the middle of the room. Thinking that they could not possibly all be full of soup, I asked O'Donohue later how much Proctor makes every day.

"About 20 gallons," he said.

The next stop on the tour was the salad

preparation area, where I saw two women furiously chopping carrots and pulling apart heads of lettuce.

"They make all of the ingredients in the salad bar fresh right here," O'Donohue said proudly. "Even the salad dressing is from scratch." I immediately felt guilty for sloppily letting some of the hand-cut lettuce fall off my plate at last night's dinner.

Somebody's epic night meant a few minutes."

Yet these are only the worst aspects of a job that Paquette said is all about involvement with the Middlebury community. Not only has she been with the custodial staff for 15 years, but she counts at least 10 close relatives as colleagues in the Custodial, Dining Services, Snow Bowl and Public Safety staffs.

"We're very devoted to the College," Paquette explains. "There's not many days I've missed over the years."

While Paquette's schedule follows a routine — up at 4:00 a.m., at work by 5:30 to clean Ross Dining Hall before the breakfast rush — her days are often far from predictable.

On the morning I spent with her team, two of her six colleagues were out on sick leave, and she was training Chad Huntley from the Recycling Center to take over duties on the third floor.

"Chad will clean 17 bathrooms this morning," Paquette explained, while Chad tried his best to cover a grimace. "Everyone works an eight-hour shift, and bathrooms are a big

part of that time."

No matter how busy in Ross, however, Paquette has never approached the now-closed A-Frames Freeman International A-Frames, legendary for noise complaints and all damage, were Paquette's reduction to working at

"I came during the end of the year. We saw you those stories," she said. "I was there when she inhaled from its previous user."

"And as always," responsibility falls squarely on shoulders."

I had no idea what came from, but staring beat-up hallway of seemed appropriate enough. — Derek Schlickheiser

Donna Paquette, Custodial Services

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Laurent Lussier, Midd-Rides

It's 11:26 p.m. on Saturday night and most kids on Midd Rides are headed to or from Fletcher house.

"This shirt is gonna get me p--- automatically!" exclaimed one dark-haired student as he assessed the appeal of his pin-striped orange Ralph Lauren oxford shirt. Laurent Lussier, a weekend Midd Ride driver with friendly eyes and an "aw, shucks" demeanor, looks at me in the front seat and rolls his eyes.

During my hour shadowing Lussier, colorful comments such as these are frequent but punctuated by relatively non-eventful rides from the sober, party-shunning types, or those who have reached the stage of quiet drinking. Throughout most of the ride, Lussier endures the shouts and screams and profanities of the students he drives with extreme patience, and such an eye roll is the most emotion he betrays in response.

Midd-Rides, the College-funded transportation service that drives students to and from designated pick-up spots around campus, sees a fair amount of traffic during the week, but is in highest demand on the weekends. During its Sunday-Thursday hours of 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., the one Midd-Ride van is operated by students. On Friday and Saturday, the van is run by adults from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. This is Lussier's third year as a Midd-Rides

driver. He started out as a driver for special events, but quickly qualified for the Midd-Rides position when he heard of the opportunity. His shift started at 8:30 p.m. and will continue on until Midd-Rides ends for the night. "I'll have about 170 to 180 kids tonight," he tells me. "101 so far."

Our first group of six people is dropped off at Twilight without incident, politely thanking Lussier as they leave. "Yeah, the really rowdy kids definitely don't come along as frequently as you might think, but when it rains it pretty much pours," Lussier says, estimating that around half the kids he transports are the quite, polite types.

The most common problem is when people try to pack too many kids in, Lussier says. Only minutes later, such an incident occurs when around 20 people try to fit in the van at Adirondack Circle, which only fits 10, not including Lussier. Despite offers of \$15 dollar bribes, Lussier remains calm yet insistent. "No! The van is full! That's the rule," he states in staccato sentences. "If you don't cooperate I'll call Public Safety!" At such a threat the boys in question back off, and are taken without incident to their destination.

As we drive up to Adirondack Circle once more, five or six students run after the van. Lussier sighs, "People need to know

we can't stop on the main road. Sometimes, if the van isn't full and the next group I'm getting isn't big, then I can stop for one or two kids," he explains. "I'll try to stop if it's a girl alone or something, but they need to just call ahead."

Eleven drunken friends get out at ADK, headed to the Fletcher House party. One quickly whips out his phone, "Yo, I'm at Fletcher now," he says, a comment that makes everyone in the van, including Lussier, laugh. One boy, seeing my pen and paper and state of clear sobriety, picks up on the fact that I am a reporter. He leans over and grips my seat, saying with gratuitous sincerity, "You know, we are privileged at our school. You know, when we want to go we can just take the bus." A loud cacophony of "Sir, you're the man!" is shouted by nearly all the riders in Lussier's direction. He nods politely, as one boy asks jovially, "Sir, how has your night been?"

No sooner does Lussier open his mouth to respond, but the chorus of "Thank yous" is interrupted one brown-haired boy with a N.Y. Yankees cap who changes the subject with, "Charlie, I'm gonna pee in your face tonight!"

While I am bewildered and look around trying to figure out which friend is Charlie, Lussier merely returns all his attention to driving, while N.Y. Yankees Hat emphasizes his prior experience with,

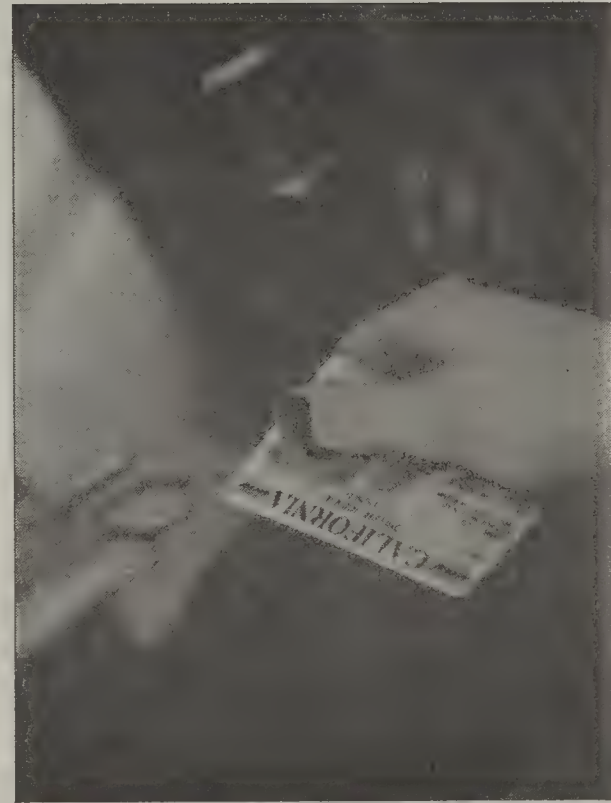
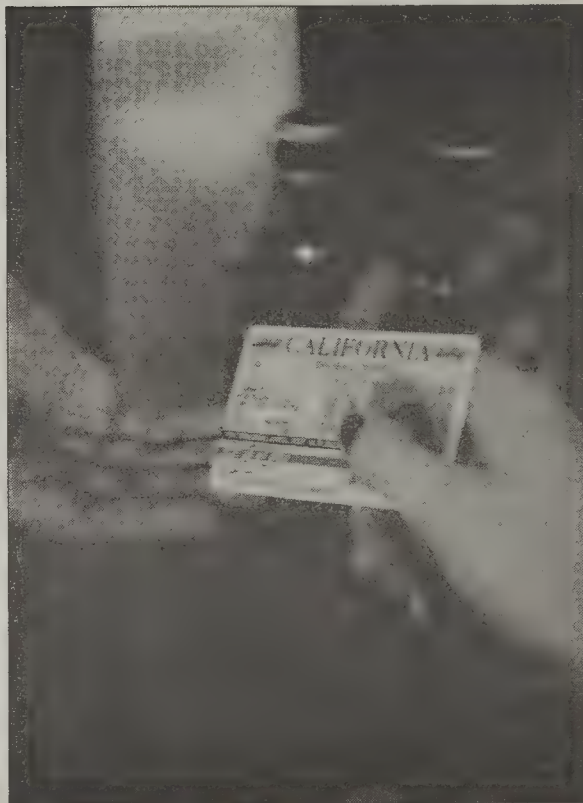
"It's not the first time I've peed in someone's face!" The group of boys leaves at Fletcher, with only a few saying thank you. Despite their athletic builds, none seem able to close the van door, and Lussier unbuckles and gets up to shut the door himself.

Lussier returns to Twilight, where one of the boys on our first ride forgot his backpack. The boy happily retrieves it from the van and we go on to McCullough to pick up a group of girls. The girls dash to the van, but seem relieved that it did not take Midd Rides the 30 minutes which were projected. "The estimates can only be so accurate," explains Lussier.

"If people just decide to walk that throws it off, which happens a lot of the time." The girls are dressed to the nines, and also headed to Fletcher. "My friend is bringing a football player in the spring to look here. He says he'll only come if he has someone to hook up with," says one. "We should all hook up with him!" shouts another. "Wait, where is Fletcher?"

Once more, Lussier's face betrays no emotion, and he declines to comment on their conversation directly once they leave the van. "Freshman," is all he'll say. "You can always tell it's freshman—they never actually know where they're going."

— Mary Lane, Focus Editor



Andrew Ngeow

RISKY BUSINESS... IS IT WORTH IT?

Students using fake IDs to score alcohol face unexpected consequences

By H. K. Merriman
STAFF WRITER

Even before McLovin made using a fake ID look cool (at least for Fogel) and easy in "Superbad," underage students have used various forms of false identification to purchase alcohol and gain access to bars. But using a "fake" does not always result in a night of carefree revelry. You have seen them around campus and maybe you have even used one, but how much do you really know about the consequences of misrepresenting your identity?

Legislation on fake IDs varies greatly from state to state. For example, in Ohio, using false identification is a fourth degree felony and can carry a prison sentence of six months to five years, in addition to a hefty fine of as much as \$2,500. Vermont's law is decidedly less strict, designating the charge as a misdemeanor and capping the fine at \$50.

While Middlebury students may not necessarily be aware of the lenient nature of Vermont State Law on false identification, they have certainly noticed and taken advantage of the sporadic and relaxed enforcement of the law at school and in town.

"I've heard of a lot of fakes being denied, but then, they are simply handed back to the person," said Raina Lynn Crawford '10. Still,

even though bars might not report you to the police, that does not mean that they are going to accept your poorly laminated Hawaiian "license."

When it comes to purchasing liquor, it all depends on where you go and what you use. Jack Reed '10 used his brother's ID for two years and never had a problem once.

Christy Martenson '08 observed how the

tion.

"In New York City, I found that bouncers were mildly concerned over guys' IDs, and either did not check girls' IDs or pretended to check them just for show," said Lincoln. "Girls with really obviously fake IDs ran into trouble maybe only five percent of the time in the city, if that."

On campus, the verifying of identification

My friends from Europe laugh at me when I tell that about how many fake IDs college kids have in the states. Over there, fake IDs are for criminals.

—Christopher Wearn '08

enforcement of fake ID policy may also fluctuate with the academic calendar.

"I think most people on campus are aware that Two Brothers is much more relaxed about IDs during the summer than during the regular school year," Martenson said. "Some of my underage friends used fakes to get into the bar without a problem this summer, but when they tried to use the same fakes this fall, they were denied entrance."

Rachel Lincoln '08, however, sees small rural areas like Middlebury as being more stringent than big cities with false identifica-

tion. The College enforces a "Two Forms of ID policy," which not only notifies students that there will be alcohol at a party without actually referencing alcohol on a flyer, but also enables the College to ensure that they do not provide alcohol to underage students using a fake. A student ID is required as the primary form of identification, with a driver's license, passport or liquor identification card as the second form.

While the College may be strict about only giving alcohol to those students who can produce two valid forms of identification,

the College's decided punishment for being caught with a fake is vague.

The College Handbook states that "the production, possession or use of false identification is illegal and may lead to disciplinary proceedings." That clause is obviously somewhat subjective, and it seems that students would benefit from knowing more specifically which circumstances can result in disciplinary action.

Associate Director of Public Safety Dan Gaiotto commented on his department's role in the process.

"Public Safety does confiscate false identification cards that they encounter and document this in an incident report," explained Gaiotto. "The Commons Deans or the Office of the Dean of the College typically deals with determining appropriate consequences for this violation."

Despite the risk, perceived or real, of punishment, fake IDs have become a large part of American college culture.

"My friends from Europe laugh at me when I tell that about how many fake IDs college kids have in the states," said Christopher Wearn '08. "Over there fake IDs are for criminals."

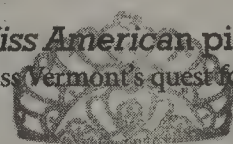
So, will you be considered a criminal if you are caught with a fake at Middlebury? It's hard to tell, but if you do encounter trouble with a local cop, do not expect him to be as excited about underage drinking as Seth Rogen.

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Visiting professor shares experiences
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Free time? Where'd the work go?

The Campus dishes out creative January activities

For most of us (sorry, Orgo students) Winter Term provides a much needed respite from the rigors of a full-time courseload. Now that you have three-day weekends and afternoons off, all that is left to do is figure out how to spend your newfound free time. Of course, there are the obvious solutions — College-sponsored workshops in everything from bellydancing to bagpiping, skiing or snowboarding at the Snow Bowl, yet another Super Smash Brothers marathon — favored by first-years and seniors alike. But if you are looking to branch out, we have compiled a list of alternative activities all within walking (or reasonably short driving) distance of your dorm.

Call of the Wild

Hone your ornithological skills by learning how to recognize the hermit thrush, Vermont's state bird, and some of the other hundreds of species that have been spotted within the state's borders. Get started by doing some basic research on your own or by enrolling in one of the bird tracking workshops offered at Wright Park and various other Addison Country locations through the Otter Creek Audubon Society. (For more information, e-mail wbsite@ottercreekaudubon.org and ask to be added to the Events list.)

Brewery Tours

Students of legal drinking age should take advantage of Vermont's myriad local offerings. The state is home to nearly 20 breweries (get the full list at www.vermontbrewers.com). Start your mini-tour at Middlebury's own Otter Creek Brewing Company and then hit up the Bobcat Café and Brewery in nearby Bristol, where you can purchase 3-oz. samples of any of their seasonal beers, which currently include the Pocock Pilsner and the Bobcat Maple Porter. Alternatively, if you want to get a taste of Vermont spirits without the time commitment (or if you just prefer the harder stuff), check out Vermont Gold Vodka, a pricy but tasty liquor distilled from 100 percent maple sap and available at Hanafords.

Platform Tennis

If you would like to enjoy the beautiful Vermont outdoors but don't want to ski, check out a game of platform tennis. It is a little-known fact that Middlebury College has platform tennis courts which racquet sport athletes enjoy all-year-round. These courts are only one fourth the size of a tennis court but are enclosed by wire so as in squash the wall is fair game! The platform is raised off the ground to allow for a heating system to keep off snow and ice. So, if you love squash, tennis or racquetball and want to play outside this winter, get out to the courts behind Nelson Recreation Center!

Let It Snow!!

While lots of us either bitterly complain about the snow we have to walk through for seemingly the entire year, many do get out and enjoy it on skis, sleds or snowboards. Believe it or not, though, snow can be incorporated into many other fun Winter Term activities. Snow forms the basis for sugar-on-snow, the traditional sugary treat consisting of warm maple sugar poured over a fresh bowl of snow. The maple sugar hardens leaving behind a succulent candy similar to taffy. Given the right conditions snow provides many opportunities for sculpting fun. With the help of a few friends and some warm gloves, sticky snow can be transformed into forts, dragons or snowmen in no time.

—Features Editors



the ethicist

by Amanda Greene

Last weekend, I found my dad rummaging through our limited wine supply at the last minute, looking for something that he could bring to dinner at a friend's house. My dad ultimately settled on a bottle of Pinot Grigio and joked that he hoped his friend hadn't gifted him this bottle on a similar "man receives invite to dinner, man procures ceremonial alcoholic beverage or flower basket to express gratitude for being welcomed into someone's home" occasion. I was reminded of all the times that I have re-gifted presents, passing a perfume that my mom has mailed for Valentine's Day off as a well-thought-out and deliberative birthday token. I thought about the papers I had written that were birthed out of the ideas and the conclusions of other assignments. I thought about execution and intention and decided that I'm all for re-gifting because it is environmentally friendly and ensures that gifts are used (objects) or consumed (food and beverage) by individuals who actually like them, and not by people who don't know what to do with aged cheese and distasteful jewelry.

The notion that we live in a society that is constantly exchanging not only items but also ideas and creativity is (in a round-about way) applicable to a Middlebury education and to the academic work that Middlebury students produce. What happens when the things being exchanged are not objects but are ideas and class notes? When is it okay to freely exchange ideas and notes and when does sharing take away from an individual's ability to produce something novel and original? Is the exchange that is so characteristic of college life an issue of ethics or an issue of personal choice? I decided it's not ethics. It doesn't matter where the inspiration for your paper's arguments came from as long as the ideas are your own. Stuff and ideas are recycled. Who cares who your chocolate was originally intended for? So, does anybody want the personalized stationery that my grandma sent me? Initials AG...

Q: I work at a daycare in town and have heard the mothers of children I care for spreading false information about the homophobic events that have transpired on campus and the administration's reactions to them. My employer has urged me to present myself to the parents as an aide and not as a member of the Middlebury community, but I feel that it is my obligation to set right the rumors that are spiraling out of control. Is it ethical to go against my boss's advice in order to clear Middlebury's name?

— Rattled-by-Rumor

A: Your situation is complicated by your relationship to both Middlebury and the daycare. You are, as an employee, encouraged to consider your boss's wishes, but you are not obligated to ignore your affiliation with Middlebury College. Your employer has told you he wishes for you to appear a certain way, but if you feel that discussing campus policies will not affect your relationship to the children and your ability to perform well at work, then you are free to act as you wish. You are an employee of the daycare and a student at Middlebury College and it is unethical for your boss to make you choose one identity over the other as your status as a student does not influence your job performance.

Former ambassador graces Midd

By Aylie Baker
FEATURES EDITOR

In November of 1979, along a crowded street in Islamabad, Pakistan, hungry flames licked the U.S. embassy's shivering structure. Just kilometers away, huddled in the U.S. Consulate building, Jeffrey Lunstead and his colleagues found themselves under similar attack. His car was burned. His wife was evacuated almost immediately. Yet the young diplomat stayed.

Nearly 30 years after entering the Foreign Service, Visiting Professor Lunstead sits at the head of the classroom in a quaint college town, luring students from the balmy snowscape to discuss a region of the world with which he is intimately connected. "Modern South Asia: Conflict, Religion and Development" is not your typical Winter Term course. Armed with his congenial candor, Lunstead transforms the classroom into a bustling embassy, the campus into a South Asian landscape.

In his junior year at Notre Dame, Lunstead took an international tour, spending considerable time in India. The trip sparked a lifelong interest in Southeast Asia, one that would compel him to pursue graduate work and eventually lead him to enter the Foreign Service.

Over his 29 years in the Foreign Service, Lunstead and his family would move more than a dozen times — residing in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh and Malaysia before finally securing a position as ambassador of Sri Lanka and the Maldives in 2003.

"I've dealt with them all," admitted Lunstead, who over the course of his tenure rubbed elbows with the upper echelons of political power — prime ministers, presidents, and even the king of Afghanistan. But he also came to know and understand the people — the citizens of the countries with which he was working.

Indeed, remarked Lunstead, "That is one of the great pleasures, to get to know a wide

range of people across a society. To get to know a society."

"But when you deal with them you're dealing with them as representatives of the United States," stressed Lunstead. U.S. popularity abroad waxed and waned over his years in service. Indeed, popular opinion was not always laudatory. "It depended on the place, the time," said Lunstead.

When asked about his command of South Asian languages, Lunstead paused. "Oh, well, it depends how you count."

"I speak four languages well."

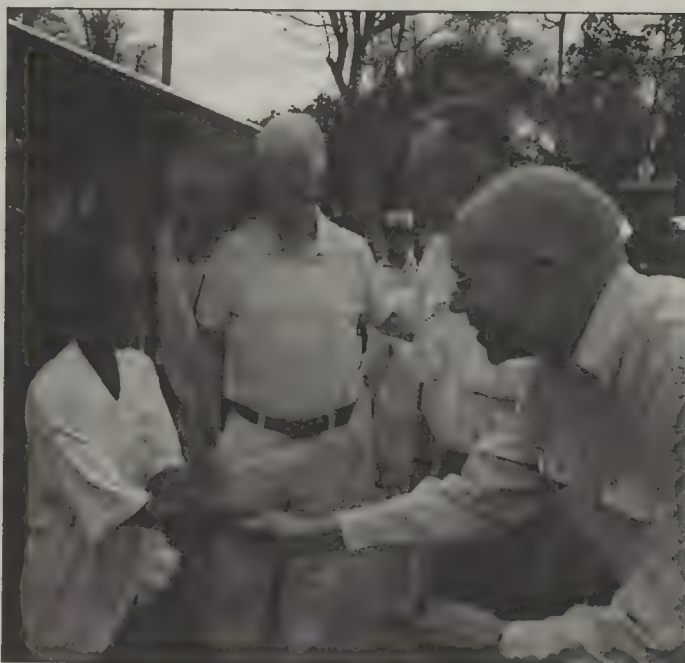
Lunstead speaks Sanskrit and Hindi, but then there's a whole

host of other languages with which he speaks with some command, depending on the locale, the country or the region.

With their itinerant lifestyle, the Lunstead family certainly experienced a great deal. His wife is a distinguished artist and musician and his two daughters are graduates of diverse international schools. It's no wonder that when hounded for memories, Lunstead finds himself dumbfounded in his mental shuffling through the past.

On his eldest daughter's 11th birthday, the Lunstead family hiked a mountain in Nepal. Shrouded by a dome of cerulean blue, the family shared pieces of roasted cake, entertained by a chorus of mountain echoes, of rising hills. Talk about being on top of the world.

Having retired from the Foreign Ser-



Courtesy
Visiting Professor Jeffrey Lunstead presents a new home to a tsunami victim in Sri Lanka alongside former presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush Sr. Lunstead was in the Foreign Service for nearly 30 years, during which he served as ambassador to Sri Lanka in 2003.

vice, Lunstead is now a research scholar at American University. "My interest in Southeast Asia was both academic and practical," explained Lunstead, who is excited to delve into academia once again. While he occasionally revisits the region on business, he and his wife seem content to remain stateside for at least a while.

Just a fortnight ago, former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto was killed by militants, marking yet another "chapter in the sad story of the Pakistani government," said Lunstead. Though today's political actors may be different, the assassination certainly resonates with the former ambassador.

But, at least for now, the tables have turned. This past Tuesday afternoon, it was Lunstead playing President Musharaff in the class' simulated interview. And his students? U.S. ambassadors.

campuscharacter

Israel Carr '09 on tattoos, religion and meeting the prez.



Want to surprise your mom with a really special gift this Mother's Day? Forget flowers or a massage certificate and take a cue from Israel Carr '09, who (at the tender age of 15) gave his mother something truly memorable.

"I wrote her a card saying, 'Sorry I've always been a pain in your ass. Now you can be a pain in mine,'" said Carr. And then he pulled down his pants (as he did when I interviewed him in Proctor) to reveal a tattoo — delivered at his older sister's hand via sewing needle — of a heart emblazoned with the word 'Mom.'

"She kept trying to rub it off with her fingers," laughed Carr.

This cheeky symbol of affection is not his only permanent body ink. Carr also has a highly visible Star of David on his right shoulder, which garners a lot of comments due to its seeming conflict with Jewish doctrine. But Carr gladly set the record straight.

"Actually, I heard a new rumor that you can only be buried in a Jewish cemetery if you have a tattoo," he deadpanned.

Between these designs and his constant attire of white shirt and overalls, Carr is pretty hard to miss around campus. (For the record, he has nearly a dozen pairs in every fabric from denim to seersucker, and wants all of you to know that he wears nothing underneath.) But the Robi Creek, Idaho native, who described himself as a "third-year senior, because some people are just so cool that they have four senior years," contributes much more than his distinctive appearance to College life.

A member of the rugby team, Carr insisted that he has shattered state and international records to earn the title of "world's fastest waterboy." He also plays the upright bass in a stu-

dent string band, formerly called Carlo Rossi, that faced a serious lawsuit with the E.&J. Gallo Winery last year over the rights to that name.

"Basically, their corporate lawyer, Kathy Krevchesky, contacted us and we had a series of meetings," explained Carr. "Ultimately, we had to agree never to use the words Carlo or Rossi in any future band names ... so we renamed ourselves Kathy Krevchesky and the Bigtime Lawyers."

The "self-made millionaire" also serves as a first year counselor for Cook Commons in Battell Center, where you can find one of his favorite possessions (second only to his girlfriend, whom he "bought on eBay") tacked to the door of his room: At first glance, this might look like simply a collage of posters, but it is actually a homemade shrine, entitled "A Beautiful Face and More," to one of Carr's personal heroes — President of the College Ronald Liebowitz.

"I'd be so starstruck if I ever got to meet him," said Carr. "I mean, how would you feel if you were introduced to Buddha or Vishnu?"

Carr is decidedly less enamored of the lacrosse players whom he caught trying to steal the Liebowitz tribute one day. They never came back after he threatened them with bodily harm, but he still believes that we should "end the War on Terror and start the War on Sweet Lax."

"You won't get in trouble for printing that because nine out of 10 studies prove that sweet laxers can't read anyway," he continued.

When warned that these statements might provoke controversy, Carr seemed unfazed and admitted that he relished the opportunity to have a "podium loud enough from which to shout it."

We are definitely listening.

— Tess Russell, Features Editor

Lizzy Zevallos

Miss VT hits the big screen

Middlebury's own Rachel Ann Cole '08 was featured prominently in the inaugural episode of The Learning Channel's "Miss America: Reality Check" last Sunday. Crowned Miss Vermont this fall, Cole, along with the 51 other Miss America contenders, is being put to the test on national television each Friday at 10 p.m. Eastern time on TLC between now and the national competition to be held on Jan. 26 in Las Vegas.

Last week's premiere proved a bizarrely enticing addition to the average Midd-kid's reality T.V. diet, though the show's host lacked the pizzazz Tyra Banks or Heidi Klum bring to the screen in our favorite reality additions. (Make it work, designers.) In an oddly earnest twist, contestants were forced to sit down and talk about some very real issues. The women discussed premarital sex, gay marriage and abortions, among other topics. While the majority of the contestants reflected conservative beliefs, Cole expressed refreshingly honest and well-thought-out responses, ones that stood out against the general tone of the discussions.

At the conclusion of the show, the judges selected six of the 52 women, highlighting who they deemed to be the "top three" and the "bottom three." Cole was one of the initial six selected, and it was not until being critiqued and complimented by the judges that she found herself labeled as one of the "bottom three." She was criticized for her lack of desire in the competition, and later revealed in an exclusive interview that at times she questioned herself, and whether or not she fit in with the other women who were constantly applying make-up and were less academically oriented. The judges, however, also highlighted many of Cole's characteristics as refreshing and new — and emphasized, to the delight of Middlebury students cheering on their peer, that they saw something in her they did not see in any of the other candidates.

While seeing one of their own on TV was the main attraction for most of us, there was more to the show than just seeing Cole. TLC called in the actors from the show

"What Not to Wear" to review the women's fashion. In an odd mash-up of reality genres, and channeling "Survivor" challenges, and at one point the show had them all competing in an obstacle course. All in all, though "Reality Check" belongs firmly in that category of "reality television you'll never admit to watching, let alone enjoying," the show makes for a perfect Winter Term indulgence.

Cole is hoping to be the first Miss Vermont to be voted into the Top 15 at the National Competition. The contestant with the most votes during the TLC special will receive an automatic bid into the top 15. You can vote at www.tlc.com/missamerica in her support.

—Features Editors



Host Michael Urie and Miss Vermont Rachel Ann Cole on the set of "Miss America: Reality Check."

winners&losers

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

By Mia Lieb-Lappen
FEATURES EDITOR

Clinton

First woman to win a presidential primary... way to go Hillary!

Romney

Turn on the tears, buddy. You're luck may yet improve.

Workshops

From marksmanship to bridge, workshops this winter are worth the extra time that you have.

Real Classes

Orgo, econ and Portuguese students — good luck finding time to hit the Bowl this winter.

Apple

Hate spending \$12.99 to buy DVDs on iTunes? Soon, you will be able to rent movies instead!

Golden Globes

Sadly, due to the writers' strike, the awards show will be replaced by a news conference this year!

The Middlebury Campus

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

An assessment of Winter Term arts events

January is usually treated as a recovery from December. For some it is a time of Puritanical diet and exercise, for others it calls for hibernation. The absence of major holidays (with the exception of Martin Luther King Day) makes January a concern for art connoisseurs in cold and remote climates. How can such a bleak, dead month be rich in art? Yet considering the amount of free time the majority of Middlebury students have during Winter Term, January provides the unique opportunity to finally make the most of that packed arts calendar. But balancing the slopes with the stage can be tricky. The Middlebury Campus has compiled the most compelling art-related events of Winter Term 2008 to motivate you to brave the cold (or unseasonable warm) weather to attend a concert or theatre performance. See the best, skip the rest and enjoy a bit of midwinter art. It's up to what the doctor ordered.

what: **TAKACS QUARTET**

when: **JAN. 11**where: **CFA CONCERT HALL**

why:

The Takacs String Quartet is one of the world's greatest existing string quartets, with a repertoire that ranges from Mozart to Bartok. They received a well-deserved Grammy for their recording of the middle-period Beethoven string quartets. Their last performance here at Middlebury featured an unusual rendering of the Debussy string quartet. On the whole, the Takacs differs from other string quartets, such as the Emerson String Quartet — who performed here last fall — in their attention to expressivity. Even the Takacs' readings of the six Bartok quartets have a certain idiosyncratic Romanticism. For those who attended the Emerson's concert, this one might be of interest as contrast.

why: "Girl Talk," the stage name of mash up disc jockey Gregg Gillis, will perform in McCullough Social Space on Jan. 18. Gillis became by taking sampling to an artful extreme — he "samples" from as many as 12 different songs to create a work of his own. It seems awkward to call "Girl Talk" performance art and perhaps unfair to refer to him as just a great DJ — we'll settle for predicting a good show. Count your lucky stars if you nabbed a ticket — and guard it with your life.

what: **GIRL TALK**

when: **JAN. 18**where: **MCCULLOUGH**

why: In contrast to the intensity of "Sweeney Todd," the play "St. Crispin's Day," directed by Alexander Draper '88, takes a lighter, wittier look at bloodshed. Set at the Battle of Agincourt, also the backdrop for Shakespeare's "Henry V," playwright Matt Pepper expostulates on war with a Monty Python-esque persona. "St. Crispin's Day," the day of the Battle of Agincourt, refers also to the "St. Crispin's Day speech," which Henry V delivers to his troops prior to battle. The speech places value on the scars men receive in battle, which can, in old age, remind them of their valorous youth. One can guess that Pepper's play has a principally anti-war message, anticipating the spring production of "Lysistrata."

what: **SWEENEY TODD**

when: **JAN. 25-26**where: **CFA CONCERT HALL**

why: With Tim Burton's film version of "Sweeney Todd," starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, recently released in theaters, director Douglas Anderson could not have better timing in bringing Steven Sondheim's cult classic to Middlebury. With Ezra Axelrod '08 in the title role and Judith Dry '09 as his sinister accomplice, this production promises to be as suspenseful and provocative as the film version, perhaps even better considering it follows more of Sondheim's original intentions.

what: **ST. CRISPIN'S DAY**

when: **JAN. 24-26**where: **HEPBURN ZOO**

I'M RIGHT YOU'RE WRONG

when: **JAN. 25-26**where: **CFA DANCE THEATER**

why: The 2007-2008 Dance Company of Middlebury, directed by Tiffany Rhynard presents the multi-media concoction "I'm Right, You're Wrong," which explores an apparent irrationality of conflict in contemporary society. An interactive media interface created by New York-based artist Marlon Barrios Solano incorporates and engages the audience in the performance. The company will go on to perform in the San Francisco Bay area.

editors' picks

12

Midd Winds
CFA Concert hall
7 p.m.

This concert includes works by Percy Grainger, Gustav Holst and Franz von Suppe. Midd Winds is made up of about 45 woodwind, brass and percussion players from around the state. Conducted by Alice Weston.

12

Flags of our Fathers
Dana Auditorium
3 and 8 p.m.

Clint Eastwood's war drama tells the story of the famous Iwo Jima flag-raising photograph, commenting on the extraordinary power a single image can hold on a society.

Letters from Iwo Jima
Dana Auditorium
3 and 8 p.m.

Eastwood's follow-up to "Flag of our Fathers" holds a Japanese perspective on the Iwo Jima battle, describing the unbelievably fatalistic resolve of many Japanese soldiers.

19

19

Chamber Music
CFA Concert
8 p.m.

Andrew Throdahl '09, Ellen Flanagan '09, Shelsey Weinstein '10.5 and Lindsay Selin '10, winners of last year's chamber music competition, team up for Brahms' G Minor Piano Quartet.

The Devil Wears Patagonia



By Jordan Nassar

Alright, so you may not agree with some, most, or all off my opinions regarding fashion. You may find my columns abrasive and unreasonable, unfair and ridiculous. But have you ever asked yourself what the penalty for disregarding my words might be? I'm not talking about any sort of punishment, save that which you inflict upon yourself — I refer to the costs of ignoring fashion. I want nothing more than to protect YOU from this unsettling prospect, and thus have come up with a few key points for you to keep yourself protected.

1. Girls — Beware of revealing too much. I realize that tights-as-pants has become quite a craze among you ladies, and this trend is not without repute — it can definitely work well — but keep in mind the state of your inter-leg region, for there is nothing more uncomfortable for both the leggings-wearer and viewer than an unfortunate bunching. If you just must wear those tights, a long t-shirt or short dress should do the trick.

2. On a more serious note, know your political and cultural associations. You may think that your Che Guevara shirt is really cool, and that the kufiya (Arab scarf, most commonly red-and-white or black-and-white) is so in right now — but remember that as an intelligent and educated individual, you might be expected to know the meaning behind these rather charged symbols. I'd hope you know about El Che, having completed high school history class, but the kufiya is something that I wouldn't assume you know about — it's a scarf worn across Middle East, with a design slightly differing from region to region, rendering it somewhat of a cultural identification. In the 1930s it became a symbol of Palestinian solidarity, and that connotation still holds strong today. The black-and-white kufiya became the trademark of Yasser Arafat, while the red-and-white is favored by the PLO. I, personally, am proud of my Arab heritage and wear my kufiya the way I have since I was young — but if that one at Urban strikes your fancy, just know that you're making a statement.

3. Boys, this one's for you. Now I know that I've given you all a lot of grief about sweatpants — and let's be real, haute couture doesn't exactly come to mind upon sight of those Champion or Nike sweats. If you were to go for something by Jeremy Scott or Cassette Playa, that'd be a different story (yes, fashion can, in fact, include sweat material). Alas, I digress. What I mean to say is, beware of being objectified. You see, what you may not know is that when you roll out of bed, throw on your sweats and head to class, more often than not, someone is checking out your package and buns. Hate to break it to you, but those sweats — while comfortable — put you on display, giving onlookers a show with every step you take. I would like to stress that I am not a pervert, but just that I have many straight girlfriends and gay male friends alike that regularly mention this phenomenon. People are watching — I'm only trying to give you fair warning. So go for the jeans next time — unless you're a show-off.

There are many more, but these three are rather high on the list. Take heed of what I have given you and go forth — whilst protecting yourself from the downsides of poor fashion. Or don't, and pay the price.

Burgeoning theater tradition returns

Students produced six plays in a day for "24 hours Play Festival"

By Justine Katzenbach
ARTS EDITOR

What happens when you put six playwrights, six directors and 16 actors all into the Hepburn Zoo with one mission at hand — to create, direct and produce six plays all within the constraints of a 24-hour period? Mission impossible, you ask? Not for these Middlebury College theatre makers.

On Jan. 4 at 8 p.m. the group of playwrights, directors and actors gathered into the Zoo for the grand kick-off of Middlebury College's second annual "24-Hour Play Festival." The process is simple — playwrights draw director's names from a hat, and then use the same procedure to pick their actors. With casts fully assembled, actors and directors scurry out of the Zoo, leaving playwrights equipped with their laptops and 12 hours and counting to provide six scripts by the following morning at 8 a.m. While no direct prompt was presented, playwrights, directors and actors were each asked to provide random props — which included, though not limited to: a bob haircut wig, a lobster hat and two bottles of NyQuil. The props, while not binding, offered some inspiration for playwrights as well as added to the absurdity inherent in all pieces.

Created last Winter Term by Caitlin Dennis '06.5, the event lived on this year thanks to Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki '08, who spearheaded the production. Tirrell-Wysocki said that he "had a blast acting in last year's festival, and it seemed like such an easy and quick way to give a lot of people an opportunity to get involved in some really fun theatre." The success of last year's "24-Hour Play Festival" assured that it had to happen again, according to Tyrell Wysocki.

When actors and directors returned to the Zoo on Saturday at 8 a.m., they were confronted with six-uproariously comedic plays and 12 hours before opening night. The production opened with a bang in Willie Orbison's '08 "The Hotel Doppelgang," a play directed by Dawn Loveland '09 about a man (Peter Hoffman '11) who arrives at a hotel in Germany only to find that its attendant (Dave Malinsky '11) is not only inescapable but also undergoes total identity changes at every turn. Malinsky took on each new character trait notably as he adopted accents from German to Canadian with ease and apparent accuracy.

Andrew Ward's '09 "MutantCullough," directed by Rishabh Kashyap '08, elicited the greatest audience response of the evening as the Hepburn Zoo shook from the laughter inside it. Casey Monahue '11 played a Middlebury College student who suffered from the irreparable consequences of failing to fill out his evacuation plan on Bannerweb. When nuclear attack struck, the boy was left with a permanent bob haircut. As he meanders around a McCullough dance party, he falls into a flirtatious conversation with Xian Chiang-Waren '11, only to discover that she, too, has been mutated by the attacks — eternally attached as a Siamese twin to her roommate Elizabeth Goffe '10. A story of love and growth, Ward helped his audience understand that, in the end, maybe there is a little mutant in everyone.

Beginning with The Baha Men's song "Who Let the Dogs Out" created an immediately comedic scenario in "Things I Look For When Choosing A Doctor" by Neil Baron '10 and directed by Leah Day '07.5. Doctor (Rachel Wold '11) fights against Veterinarian (Christine Chung '10) grappling over whether or not their patient, Mr. Wolf (Starrett Barry '09), is in fact a dog or a human. As the two doctors' debate grows evermore outrageously heated, they eventually lose all insight into what truly matters — dog or human, this patient is sick. Barry's heartfelt plea for medical attention



Courtesy

The cast, playwrights and directors of the "24-Hour Play Festival" assemble for a post-production snapshot after a long day of fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants theater.

forces the doctors to work together — fighting illness as one nondiscriminatory team.

Claire Graves '09.5 and Lilli Stein '11 prance around the room, singing loudly to Kelly Clarkson's "Since You've Been Gone," discussing boys and painting their nails in Claire Groby's '08 "How to Find A Good Polar Bear" and directed by Maegan Mishico '08.5. The two cool older girls exclude Graves' kid sister Kim Ammons '11, who desperately wants nothing but to play a game of Mad Libs. As the friends embark in gossip about a date with a mystery man, Ammons enthusiastically fills out her game with extracts from their ridiculous conversation, unbeknownst to the two other girls.

"The Shanghai Shaman" by Alec Strum '08 and directed by Aaron Gensler '08 brought

enjoyable the experience truly was. Perhaps the brilliance of the event lies in its rapidity — bare boned theatre at its finest — simultaneously raw and real. The time constraint clearly condensed and sped up the theatrical process, so that by 1 p.m. on Jan. 5, the production was going into technical rehearsals followed up by a dress rehearsal that ended a mere 20 minutes before the house opened. Glouchevitch expressed the satisfying aspects of the pace, saying that, "It's kind of funny because it's condensing three months of work into one really intense period of agony — and then you get to have the cast party."

Strum also commented on the production's prompt nature, saying that, "I think the time constraint can have one of two opposite effects on a writer: paralysis or a major sense of freedom." For the six playwrights involved, the limitations of the event added yet another dimension to the writing process — making it far more focused on product rather than content. "The time constraint can free you up, since it can also force you not to

I think the time constraint can have one of two opposite effects on a writer: paralysis or a major sense of freedom. [It] can free you up, it can also force you not to think too hard.

— Alec Strum '08

audience members on a wild journey as John Glouchevitch '10.5 attempted to poison Phil Ziff '10.5 with NyQuil through the help of his seemingly trustworthy confidant played by Oscar Loyo '10. A spoof on any film noir, the cleverness of the script derived from its details — such as Glouchevitch chain-smoking cigarettes galore and expelling haphazard French words, or saxophonist Ross Bell '10 providing improvisational musical accompaniment to create an even more pronounced murder mystery ambiance.

In Alexander Manshell's '09 "The Aquarium," directed by Himali Soin '08, Stephanie Strohm '08 mourns the loss of a love affair with her Professor of Poetry at the local community college. While Lucy Faust '08.5 listens attentively, her exasperation for her friend becomes increasingly apparent as Strohm asks her to recite the ridiculous poem that she wrote for her ex-lover. As the play evolves, the striking acting of the two women slowly reveals marked changes in their attitudes — Strohm becoming more headstrong, while Faust becomes more whimsical and romantic until finally, at the play's close, the audience is struck with a skillfully maneuvered, yet still subtle, role reversal.

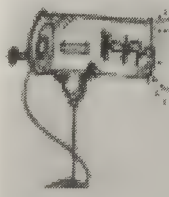
To say that the "24-Hour Play Festival" was a success is an understatement. The audience's energetic response revealed just how

think too hard," said Strum.

Ultimately the "24-Hour Play Festival" has potential to help actors, directors and playwrights alike get back to the basics — without time for lengthy character development or intricate design elements, artistic choices are forced to be made and stuck with.

Mishico was accurate when she stated that, "This was a theatrical experiment." Indeed, to organize and embark on such a risky journey was an enormous feat. Whether one play proved more successful than another ultimately seemed rather insignificant. What was important was how engaged and comfortable the audience felt — yelling out to actors, dancing along to music and laughing up a storm. There were no guidelines or expectations to the theatre produced and in the end everyone involved — both participants and audience members — felt liberated by such originality.

What better way to welcome in this Winter Term than with such an amazingly creative and collaborative collection of work? Two years and counting, everyone who was lucky enough to stumble into the Hepburn Zoo this Saturday evening left with high hopes that this will become a Middlebury College tradition for years to come.



Spotlight on Ezra Axelrod and Judith Dry

The Middlebury Campus spoke with Ezra Axelrod '08 and Judith Dry '09, stars of the up-coming production "Sweeney Todd," which will be performed on Jan. 25 and 26 in the CFA

Concert Hall. The Middlebury College production of the Tony Award-winning musical, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, features Axelrod in the title role and Dry as his partner in crime, Mrs. Lovett.

The Middlebury Campus: What sparked your interest in Sweeney Todd? How did your participation in this production come about?

Ezra Axelrod: I really didn't know anything about Sweeney Todd before I found out that there would be a Middlebury production. I had heard that it was considered "The American Opera," and so I was immediately interested as I've been working mainly on operatic singing with Carol Christensen for the past four years.

Judith Dry: I have loved this show ever since I saw it in London about four years ago. I am also an avid Sondheim fan. I had been in "Into the Woods" in high school, and freshman year I was in "Company," also directed by Doug Anderson. Actually, after "Company" Doug asked us if we had any requests or ideas about shows to do next, I e-mailed him and suggested "Sweeney Todd," knowing how much he loves Sondheim.

TC: What was your reaction to the recent film version of "Sweeney Todd"? How has it affected your interpretation of the role?

EA: I think Tim Burton's realization of "Sweeney Todd" is brilliant. He successfully transforms theater into film, approaching this musical's disturbing emotional and physical content through monotonous whispers, close-ups, gruesome special effects, etc., all wonderful elements that the film medium makes possible. Although I found the film poignant and aesthetically genius, I think it's important for me to remember that our production here isn't cinematic, it's musical theater, it's a different medium, and our objectives differ from Burton's.

JD: I really loved the movie. Of the recent movie to musical adaptations, it definitely succeeds the most in my book. As opposed to "Chicago" or "Hairspray," the film of "Sweeney" succeeds in being its own entity. I do think you lose something by eliminating most of the big chorus numbers, since they are so thrilling to hear when 25 people are singing. And of course the main theme, "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd," became orchestration in the movie. You lose the idea that this is a legend without the line, "attend the tale of Sweeney Todd." But it works because you do that visually in film. I loved Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, despite their not really being able to sing. I definitely will be singing louder than Helena Bonham Carter. My Mrs. Lovett will be bigger, not subservient, and she definitely doesn't like children.

TC: Most people associate the story of "Sweeney Todd" with gratuitous violence. Do you think "Sweeney Todd" has a moral message despite being so bloody?

EA: I don't agree that the violence in "Sweeney Todd" is "gratuitous." The body count is high in so many revered works of art, and I think the violence in "Sweeney Todd" is essential in any discussion of its moral message. "Sweeney Todd" is a commentary about societal outcasts, about the nature of alienating societies, and these are themes that recur all too chillingly today. Recent massacres on school campuses across the United States and the discourses their perpetrators cling to do not differ greatly from the



Andrew Ngeow

content of "Sweeney Todd," "There's a hole in the world like a great black pit, and it's filled with people who are filled with s---, and the vermin of the world inhabit it...but not for long." Sadly, I heard one reviewer say that "Sweeney Todd" is the "film for the time we are living in."

JD: The moral message is in the blood. It's all a brilliant analogy for "man devouring man." The blood shows just how selfish everyone is, that power corrupts, and that people who get screwed over will want their revenge. Justice will be served, perhaps in the form of a pie. Sondheim is critiquing those in power, and the message still holds true, and always will.

TC: What has been the greatest obstacle so far in the production?

JD: This is an operetta with very difficult music. It is an enormous challenge to learn it all in a few weeks. But we'll do it.

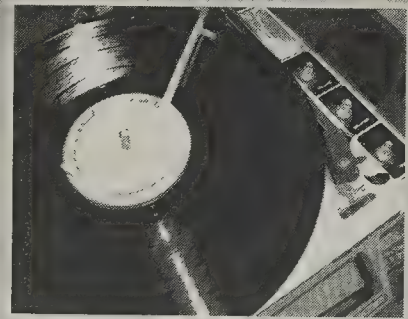
EA: I have almost no experience with theater, so the whole idea of interpreting a character is somewhat new to me. Luckily, I am working with someone as talented as Judith Dry, who has a lot of experience and is so natural on stage. Both she and Doug Anderson, the production's director, have a lot of helpful criticism, so I'm excited to gain more confidence on stage.

TC: Do you have any exciting artistic plans for next semester?

JD: I'll be in Prague next semester. I'm actually leaving at 11 a.m. the morning after our second show. Who knows where my artistic impulses will take me? I'll definitely be seeing a lot of experimental Czech theatre, and maybe writing some.

EA: Next semester the Middlebury College Orchestra will perform my senior composition, "The Vilnius Duet." I guess its official classification would be "orchestral song." It's basically an operatic piece with text by my father. I'm extremely excited for its premier, because it will not only be performed by the orchestra, but by two professional singers — my voice teacher, Carol Christensen, and her colleague, Beth Thompson.

— Andrew Throdahl, Arts Editor



for the record

by Emily Temple

A good soundtrack can do absolute wonders for a film. In fact, some films become popular before they come out almost solely based on the buzz, Internet or otherwise, about a slamming sonic backdrop. And a film, to be fair, can do wonders for a song. Think of "Miss Misery," for which Elliott Smith received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song when it appeared on the "Good Will Hunting" soundtrack. The more recent "Across the Universe," on the other hand, a musical chronicling the 1970s exclusively through Beatles songs, rests heavily on the unshakable fortress of its music. I sat through the horrible acting complacently, completely enthralled both with the interpretations of my old favorites, and the unmistakable glee of piecing together the nods and winks (I mean dialogue like: "Where'd she come from?" "Oh, that's Prudence. She came in through the bathroom window"). Musicians themselves both inspire and frequently feature in films — in 2006's "Wristcutters: A Love Story," Shea Whigham plays a Ukrainian ex-rocker who looks an awful lot like Gogol Bordello frontman Eugene Hutz, and is in fact inspired by him. Hutz incidentally starred alongside Elijah Wood in the sub-par film adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's "Everything is Illuminated," and is a good friend of "Wristcutters" director Goran Dukic. "Wristcutters" boasts a soundtrack full of Gogol Bordello, which lends it its aggressively irreverent, manic-depressive atmosphere and undead hipster charm.

The most recent film-music wonder team is "Juno," a movie about a precocious 16-year-old (Ellen Page) who finds herself impregnated by her awkwardly long-limbed friend Bleeker (Michael Cera). While it is my general opinion that hearing a good song for the first time in a movie is an easy way out, and rather cheapens the experience of a new track, "Juno" certainly does its illustrious soundtrack justice. After viewing the film, it's hard to believe that writer Diablo Cody didn't have some of the soundtrack in mind — that's how snugly it fits. However, according to Page, who plays the dry and charmingly weird Juno, director Jason Reitman asked her fairly early on what kind of music she thought her character would listen to, and her immediate response was "The Moldy Peaches." Reitman had never heard of the New York City duo, but he soon fell in love with them, and we now have a movie (and a soundtrack) full of Kimya Dawson, the female half of the band, who perfectly complements the characters and the feel of the film.

"Juno" ends with Cera and Page's characters singing a duet version of The Moldy Peaches' "Anyone Else But You," accompanying themselves on two acoustic guitars on the front steps of Bleeker's parents' house. I had heard of this scene before seeing the movie, and since I too listened to the soundtrack first, I had also heard their version. To be honest, when I saw it for myself on the big screen, I was a little disappointed. I'm all for breaking down the diatonic/non-diatonic sound barrier, I'm all for this song in this movie, I'm all for my own smug acknowledgement that I know all the bands that the on-screen characters know. However, the scene seems tacked-on and forced, a waste. When I heard that there was to be a "live" version of this grossly adorable song in the film, I pictured a tentative and nervous Cera lifting his guitar and squeaking out the first lines — *you're a part time lover and a full time friend* — and getting to see the relief and pleasure wash over his face when Page chimes in on the next verse. I thought I would then bask in the indie cuteness as they bonded over the relevant lyrics and mutual knowledge of this fairly obscure little ditty. Instead, the duet only comes at the very last moment in the film, so disjointed from the rest it could have almost played in a little box while the credits rolled. Bleeker and Juno have already confessed their mutual love and been united, the baby has been born, and all is well. It still seems awkward, like the rest of the film, but contrived, unlike the rest. Then again, who can really resist?



Gaby Shorr

LARGE FORMAT DRAWING EXHIBITION

The varied large scale work of students of the fall semester's Introduction to Studio Art I was put on exhibition in the Johnson Memorial Building pit space on Jan. 4, where it will remain on display until Jan. 18.

Hawaiian athletes lend island flavor to winter teams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

the winter season, although, up until this past year, basketball was actually a spring sport on the island.

For Wall, like many Middlebury students, the biggest shock she encountered upon arriving on campus was the weather. Unlike many of us, however, the temperature in Wall's home state rarely dips below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Having lived in Hawaii for her entire life, she admits that "even wearing warm clothes was a new concept to me!"

Other than the weather, Wall has had little trouble adjusting to life on the mainland and on the Middlebury campus, although she does find herself missing her native food — in particular poke (a type of fish salad) and loco moco (a type of Hawaiian comfort food consisting of an egg, hamburger patty and gravy served over a bed of rice). And while the Vermont countryside can be scenic in its own right, it is no wonder that Wall often finds herself missing the view of the ocean from Diamond Head.

Wall was first drawn to Middlebury in part because it is so dissimilar from what she had grown up with.

"I thought it would be fun to go to a school that's so different from home," she said. "Although Middlebury is both very different and far from my home, attending school here has definitely been a rewarding experience."

Maybe the reason for Wall's relatively easy adjustment is that, snow or shine, spring or winter, indoors or out, a basketball hoop always rests 10 feet from the floor, and Wall has proven very good at finding it. In only her second year on campus Wall has established herself as an indispensable member of the team, injecting immediate energy off the bench, shooting almost 50 percent from the field and an astonishing 83 percent from

the free-throw line. She noted that it would be tough for a young child to get hooked on playing an indoor game amidst all the beautiful weather, but she managed to avoid that problem because in Hawaii most youth basketball teams actually play outdoors instead of in a gymnasium.

While Wall was tuning her talents on an outdoor court, Swanson was tearing up the water. Like Wall, Swanson was attracted to the NESCAC because of its reputation for athletic and academic excellence, and chose Middlebury for the feel he got after taking a visit to campus.

Having liked to spend his free time surfing in the Pacific, Swanson was forced to make many changes upon his arrive in Vermont. "I had to buy an entirely new wardrobe," he recounted. Perhaps even more disruptive, he was forced to adapt to a new setting for his races. "I trained all throughout high-school in an outdoor pool," Swanson said. "So it was kind of a bummer having to swim inside."

Swanson has settled in nicely though, and despite the landlocked nature of his college he has found more than enough outlets for his aquatic talents. During the fall, he played a crucial role in Middlebury's vic-

tory at the New England Water Polo championships and is currently contributing to the swim team's early winning record. During the team's last dual meet against Springfield College, Swanson helped the team to an easy 170-128 victory, recording points in both the 50- and 100- yard freestyles.

Despite the long roads they have traveled to get to Middlebury, both Swanson and Wall have found a home in Vermont. Whether Swanson is turning up the heat as an anchor on the 400-yard freestyle relay, or Wall is running the fast-break for the Panther basketball team, both athletes are finding ways to bring a little of their native warmth to Middlebury's winter sports season.

Even wearing warm clothes was a new concept to me!
— Alana Wall '10



Alana Wall '10 has seen action in all 10 games this season, averaging 8.0 minutes per game. Jeff Patterson



Peter Swanson '09 (2) plays water polo in the fall and swims breaststroke and freestyle in winter. Jeff Patterson

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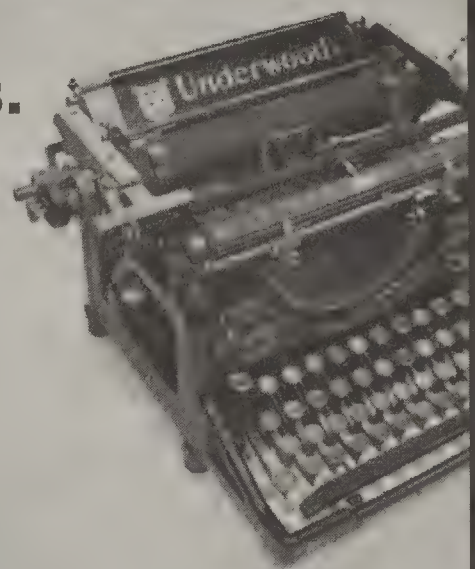
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INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Ryan Marklewitz '11 was born in Heidelberg, Germany, grew up in Okinawa, Japan, but now calls Charlotte, N.C. his home away from Middlebury. No matter what pool he is swimming in — a *schwimmbekken* in Europe, a *pu-ru* in Asia, or a natatorium in North America — the power of his cannonball always makes a splash.

Ever since he was little, Marklewitz has prided himself on his form and its results that tend to turn heads:

Graduating from Charlotte Latin in 2007 — without ever studying the ablativ case or perfect passive participles — “The Eagle,” as his teammates call him, landed in Middlebury in September, ready to embark on his college years.

“Middlebury was my top choice,” said Marklewitz. “I don’t think I could be happier anywhere else. The academics are top-notch, the people here are among the friendliest I’ve known and the swim team is made up of a great bunch of people. I couldn’t ask for much more.”

Above are seven questions that were posed to both Marklewitz’s Stewart Hall roommate, Michael Nardone '11, and one of his fellow first-year, freestyle-swimming

Witz up with Ryan Marklewitz '11?			
	Marklewitz	Glatt	Nardone
Did you ever take Latin when enrolled in Charlotte Latin?	I never did take Latin	Yes, for four years (0)	Didn’t take Latin (1)
Have you ever been a lifeguard?	I never had time	Yes (0)	Yes (0)
Did you have one of the bigger cannonballs growing up?	Oh, most definitely	For sure (1)	Hmm ... not big (0)
What stroke is your best?	Freestyle	Freestyle (1)	Freestyle (1)
Would you wear a Speedo if you didn’t have to?	That would be a pretty big no	Yes (0)	Yes (0)
Do you have a nickname on the swim team?	“The Eagle”	“The Eagle” (1)	Not that I know of (0)
Who was your favorite character on Baywatch?	Definitely C.J. Parker	Pamela Anderson (1)	Pam Anderson (1)
final score		4	3

teammates, Kevin Glatt, in order to see who knows Marklewitz better.

In a close contest, Glatt edged Nardone by a nose, 4-3. Nardone might have been at a slight disadvantage, though, because of ques-

tion six — Do you have a nickname on the swim team? — but, nonetheless, he still aced the “Baywatch,” Latin and what is your best stroke questions, proving that he has learned roughly 50 percent of the crucial facts about

his roommate over the first half of his first year living with him.

A 1 — though a C.J. Parker fan — who can

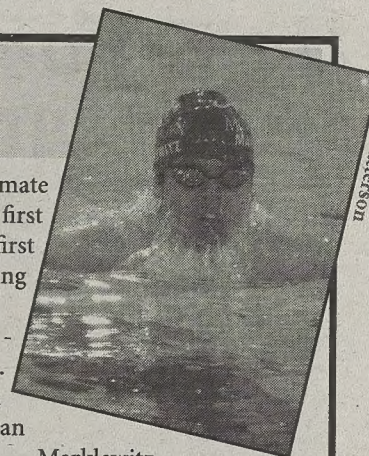
blame him? — Marklewitz has never lifeguarded a second in his life.

“I’ve never had time,” he said. “I was swimming too much.”

January will certainly give Marklewitz plenty of time to do some more swimming. The Panthers go to Colby to swim against the Mules on Jan. 12, to Bates the following day to swim against the Bobcats before hosting Hamilton College and Union on back-to-back weekends, Jan. 19 and Jan. 26.

To date the men’s team is 2-1, with wins over Connecticut College and Springfield College. Marklewitz has been impressive so far this year, finishing first in the 500-yard freestyle race with Springfield and second in the 1,650-yard free.

— Jeff Patterson, Sports Editor



Jeff Patterson



PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
1/3 1/5	Women's Basketball	E. Conn. St. Skidmore (OT)	73-69 L 81-78 W	Ashley Barron '09 and Emily Johnson '09 combined for 44 points to help seal the win over Skidmore in overtime.
1/4 1/5	Men's Hockey	Brockport Lake Forest	6-4 W 3-1 W	Mack Cummins '09 was the tournament M.V.P. in the 16th annual Middlebury College Holiday Classic.
1/5	Men's Basketball	Skidmore	71-52 W	Aaron Smith '09 was a force inside with 18 points and nine boards to help the team rebound from its second loss of the season.
1/5 1/6	Women's Hockey	R.I.T. Utica	3-0 W 4-2 W	Erika Nakamura '09 had an exceptional two games, scoring a goal and dishing out three assists.
1/1-1/6	Nordic Skiing	U.S. Nationals	2nd in College Cup	Simi Hamilton '09 finished fourth overall in the sprint race to earn himself a spot on the U.S. Under-23 team.



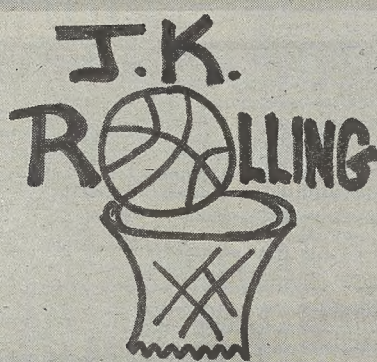
BY THE NUMBERS

39	Jersey number worn by co-captain Scott Bartlett '08.
39	Total number of points for Bartlett in his career after assisting on the last goal in the Lake Forest game.
9	Jersey number worn by assistant captain Karen Levin '08.
9 ²	Total number of points for Levin in her career after assisting on the last goal in the Utica game.
18:24	Time in minutes that the women's hockey game on Jan. 5 was delayed after the power went out in Kenyon Arena.

Editors' Picks



Questions of the week	Peter Baumann	James Kerrigan	Simon Keyes	Jeff Patterson
How many individual matches will the men's and women's squash teams win against St. Lawrence?	EIGHT It's my lucky number.	NINE I'm taking advice of the squash player on our staff.	NINE This is flagrant promotion, but go to the first men's varsity squash match ever.	FOURTEEN It takes place on the 14th day in January.
Will the ski team place higher than third in this weekend's Bates Carnival?	NO The Panthers will upset the status quo of losing to UVM and Dartmouth, but it won't be this week.	YES They might even do it in t-shirts.	YES Time to kick last year's habit of finishing behind the Big Green and the Catamounts.	NO I don't think there will be any snow.
Will the women's hockey game versus Bowdoin go into overtime like last year?	NO Playing in front of their home crowd, the Panthers won't need extra time to take care of the Polar Bears.	YES Overtime victories are more exciting.	NO They will bully the Polar Bears all night at Kenyon.	NO Bowdoin is on vacation right now. They will not want to waste any of it playing overtime.
How many No. 1 and No. 2 seeds will remain after this weekend's NFL playoff games?	THREE You have to like the Colts and the Patriots, but anything can happen in the wide-open (read: weak) NFC.	TWO The Patriots are the only safe bet. Two of the remaining higher seeds will fall.	THREE I think the NFC will show its true colors and either Dallas or Green Bay will bow out.	FOUR I would really like to see the Patriots beat the Jaguars, Colts and Packers on their way to 19-0.
In a huge PAC-10 basketball match-up, who will win, No. 4 Washington St., or No. 5 UCLA?	WASHINGTON ST. The Cougar 'D' might just be the best in the nation. UCLA will be there in March, but the boys from up north will take this one.	UCLA I'm hoping this game will get me hooked on college basketball again.	UCLA You've gotta love the combination of first-year stud Kevin Love and the experienced junior Darren Collison.	UCLA Ryan Leaf went to WSU. That's enough to make my decision.
Career Record	15-14 (.517)	37-42 (.468)	40-48 (.455)	57-60 (.487)



by Jeff Klein

After listening to Roger Clemens' "60 Minutes" interview on Jan. 6, I think I speak for a vast number of people in asserting that I simply don't know what to believe concerning Clemens and his alleged involvement in the ongoing steroids saga.

Listening to Clemens vehemently deny accusations that he was injected with performance-enhancing substances only sparks more vigorous debate on whether he is innocent or guilty. Former trainer Brian McNamee asserted to investigators in the Mitchell Report — which was released on Dec. 13 — that he provided Clemens with anabolic steroids and human growth hormone (HGH) and personally injected him at least eight to 10 times.

Yet on Sunday, Clemens fired back at his critics with an array of emotionally charged responses. Questioned by CBS' Mike Wallace, Clemens unequivocally stated that he had never — NEVER — used any performance enhancing substances in his career, further implying that McNamee's claims were complete fabrication.

Clemens attributed his excellence and longevity in MLB to his tireless work ethic and intense workout regimen. He further referred to steroids and other performance enhancers as "a quick fix," which would ultimately lead to an athlete's demise and a route that he personally would never take.

Wallace's questions were probing, unrelenting. He asked if Clemens would both testify under oath and submit to a lie detector test. In both cases, Clemens answered in the affirmative.

Before this interview, I was almost positive that Clemens was guilty. I lumped him in with past and current players who have already admitted to using banned substances or other players implicated in the Mitchell Report. Now I don't know what to believe.

Part of me — the cynical part — is certain of Clemens' guilt. How many times are we going to see professional athletes go down the path of denial in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary? Barry Bonds continues to maintain he never took steroids, but how many people honestly believe him?

Anyone remember Rafael Palmeiro who, in March of 2005 while testifying under oath, repeatedly waved his finger and stated, "I have never used steroids, period"? In August of that year, Palmeiro was suspended by MLB for testing positive for, of all things, steroids. So why in my right mind would I believe Clemens?

But the other part of me — the hopeful part — thinks that maybe, for once, the athlete in this case is not the villain. Recognizing past missteps by MLB players, especially Palmeiro, would Clemens really be so stupid as to choose the same route? Would someone stoop as low as to appear on "60 Minutes" and then lie to the entire nation? Was his overall appearance — his decisive answers, his firm body language, his incredulity over being accused of cheating — one big act?

I just can't fathom it. I want to believe that if Clemens was guilty, he'd own up to it like a man, for the good of himself, Major League Baseball and every baseball fan in the world.

But for now, it looks like the guessing games will continue.



Jeff Patterson

Ken Suchoski '11 had quite a tournament, scoring three goals — two against Brockport and one against Lake Forest, which secured the victory.

1,575 saw Middlebury saw down the Foresters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Gilchrist added another goal in the second period, while John Sullivan '10 and Suchoski netted third-period goals to secure the win.

With fast and physical Lake Forest edging Skidmore in the earlier game on Friday, the championship game was set, and it would not disappoint the crowd of over 1,500.

It appeared Middlebury would once again get on the board early, but even though the puck crossed the goal line twice, both apparent goals were waved off. Instead, it was Lake Forest which struck first, as a low, hard shot got through a screen and past Middlebury netminder Ross Cherry '08. If it were not for Sam Driver '08 diving to his knees with an open goal behind him to save a second Forester goal, the Panthers would have been down by two after one period.

The highlight of the first period, however, was Bryan Curran's '11 open-ice, neutral-zone hip-check that sent a Forester attacker flying through the air in full front-flip before falling to the ice.

The middle period was more of the same — lots of chances but no results. At least ones that were tangible.

"We won the game in the second period because we kept skating," said Beane. "We had nothing to show for the hard work, but we persevered."

Beane's players agreed. "The work in the

second period really tired them out," said co-captain Scott Bartlett '08, "allowing us to control the third."

Finally, three minutes into the third period, Middlebury's efforts paid off as the Panthers scored on their 35th shot. Middlebury won the faceoff back to Mack Cummins '09, who moved toward the center of the ice and fired a shot that Casey Ftopek '08 deflected past the Lake Forest goalie. On his next shift, Cummins, who moved to defense this year after playing forward his whole life, finished a rebound for the go-ahead goal.

"It was unbelievable to score the winning goal," said Cummins. "It felt great to be such an integral part of the win on Saturday, but it was the entire team's effort that allowed us to catch them in the third."

Just like in the game the day before, Suchoski netted the insurance goal on a play that was as pretty as anything Beane could draw up. It was a manifestation of transition hockey that they worked on in practice. Bartlett reached out to pick off the Lake Forest pass in mid-air, corralled the puck and sent it back to his defenseman. As Bartlett circled through the neutral zone, he collected the give-and-go pass, gained the offensive zone, stopped on a dime, and found the streaking Suchoski, who put home the team's third goal to seal the victory.

"After the past three games," said Cummins, "it's apparent on the bench and in the

locker room that the team is starting to come together and work for each other."

However, the season is far from over and the team echoed Beane's sentiments that this is no time to stop working. "There are areas we need to address to really get our team playing at the level we are capable of," said Bartlett, "but this is a move in the right direction."

Squash refuels at its tune-up tournaments

By Lise Rosenberger
STAFF WRITER

The women's squash team split up and traveled to Williams College and Dartmouth to participate in a pair of unofficial intercollegiate competitions this past weekend. The casual atmosphere provided the women an opportunity to gear up for their first official match of 2008.

Arriving back to Middlebury from a semester abroad, Caroline Woodworth '09 returned to the number three spot on the ladder. Co-captain Sally Hatfield '09 led the team, competing at the top of the ladder for the matches in Williamstown, Mass., followed by first-year Virginia Shannon, Woodworth, co-captain Ellie Buechner '08 and Brooke Beatt '10.

Woodworth, Buechner and Beatt won all four of each of their matches, while Hatfield and Shannon won two and lost two.

Spots five through 10 on the women's team competed in the Snowflake Tournament in Hanover, N.H. They were in the company of the men's squash team, who were also participating in a mid-season tune-up.

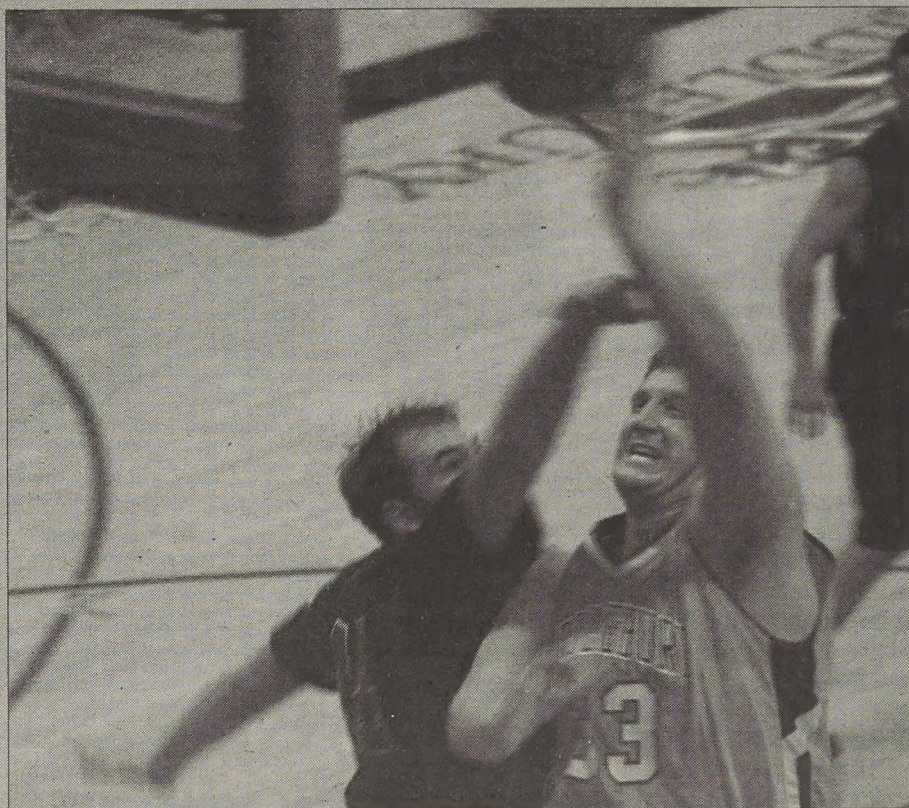
"We were some of the strongest competitors present at the tournament and performed well individually," said co-captain Brooke Farquhar '08.5 about the Dartmouth competition.

This weekend, Jan. 11-13, the team will travel to Yale and will participate in four matches against George Washington, Wesleyan, Amherst and the host Bulldogs.

"We are all looking forward to competing as a full team this weekend," said Farquhar. "We will have a lot of momentum going into the tournament after a weekend full of wins, both individual and team."

Hatfield agreed with Farquhar about the weekend's results. "This past weekend was an excellent way to become re-focused after a couple of weeks away," said Hatfield. "We're ready to see what we can do together next weekend."

On Monday, Jan. 14, the women's lone home match of the season will take place when St. Lawrence comes to the Bubble.



Jeff Patterson

PANTHERS CHARGE PAST CHARGERS

Co-captain Mike Walsh '08 and the Panther basketball team topped Colby-Sawyer on Jan. 8, 64-53. Walsh's fellow co-captain Andrew Harris '08 hit six threes and scored 20 points.

Chargers bolt by the Panthers at Pepin

By James Kerrigan
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's basketball team dropped two of three games to start 2008, but the squad is anything but worried.

After suffering a loss to Eastern Connecticut State on Jan. 3, the Panthers bounced back with an impressive 81-78 OT victory over Skidmore. Middlebury ran its lead up to as many as 12 in the second half, but the Thoroughbreds fought back with a 13-3 run. The game stayed close throughout the remainder of regulation — so close that Skidmore needed a game-tying field goal with just two seconds left to send the game into overtime.

"Usually a game goes into overtime because neither team is playing well," said Coach Noreen Pecsok, who is in the midst of her 10th season as women's basketball coach, "but both teams were playing well and hitting big shots."

Middlebury won the extra period with great free-throw shooting — the Panthers hit six of their final seven in the last 1:38 to secure the narrow victory. They also hit a season-high 12 three-pointers on the afternoon.

"We're a really strong team because we are so balanced," said Pecsok. "Our commitment is about all of us. If someone has a bad night, someone else steps up." Against Skidmore, that came from Emily Johnson '09, who finished with a team-high 23 points. Her performance against Skidmore, and her 26 points two days earlier against Eastern Connecticut State was more than enough to earn her NESCAC Player of the Week honors.

Middlebury returned home to take on Colby-Sawyer on Jan. 8. So far this season, when the Chargers matched up against other NESCAC teams, they lost by an average margin of 29 points. That trend ended in Middlebury. Despite holding an 18-9 lead in the series history, the Panthers found themselves down 18-9 early on in the first half.

Middlebury chipped away at the lead in the second half. Johnson started three consecutive Middlebury possessions with a defensive rebound which led to three straight Panther baskets, including Johnson's three-pointer which brought them within three points of the lead 30-27. But that is as close as they would get, as a tough shooting night prevented them from getting ahead. Colby-Sawyer shot 41 percent from the field, well ahead of Middlebury's 24 percent. This gap was the difference maker in the 61-48 loss for the Panthers, their third of the season.

Pecsok noted that the squad is hardly worried about the future. "The loss will force us to evaluate things," she said. "We'll be better off in the long run with tonight's result."

Middlebury hits the road this weekend for contests against Southern Vermont and Rensselaer before finishing off the month with five consecutive games against tough NESCAC foes, including Colby and Bowdoin at home on Jan. 18 and 19.



Co-captain Lani Young '08 scored two of her 10 points on this up-and-under move against Colby-Sawyer, but shot only 50 percent from the line, as the Panthers fell to the visiting Chargers.

Jeff Patterson

Despite power outage, women's hockey had plenty of firepower

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

skate past the Tigers, whose rink in Rochester is significantly smaller. "Speed was our biggest advantage," said Wright.

With the assistance of Jessica Bennett '10 and Kristen Wilson '11, first-year Julia Ireland put Middlebury on the board with a goal 5:39 into the second period, followed closely by insurance goals from Erika Nakamura '09 and Nora Bergman '11. As all three goals were scored within five minutes, the second period of the game provided the most action.

While fans watched the players battle against each other for a chance at the goal, the RIT offense lost confidence in the third period, managing only two shots, both of which Wright easily turned aside.

The outcome of Sunday's game, on the other hand, proved uncertain until the very

end. While rookie Andrea Buono '11 scored the first goal of her college career 18:04 into the game, the second period goals of Utica's Samantha Glockling and Sara George put the Pioneers up 2-1.

Rejecting the possibility of defeat, the women rallied. With an assist from Nakamura, assistant captain Tania Kenny '08 tied the game before the end of the second period, and the team emerged in the third with renewed confidence.

Middlebury skated by the Utica defenders to bombard the goal with shots. Driving through Pioneer goaltender Kelley Peers, Heather McCormack '10 netted the winning goal, followed by Margaret MacDonald '08, who scored shortly after to ensure a Panther victory. Goalie Lexi Bloom '11 stopped 13 of the 15 shots she saw to keep Utica from scoring after the second period.

sportsbriefs

by Jeb Burchenal, Staff Writer

Emily Johnson '09 named Player of the Week

Emily Johnson '09 of the women's basketball team was named NESCAC player of the week after outstanding performances against Eastern Connecticut State and Skidmore. In the first game, Middlebury was unable to overcome an early 19-3 lead for the undefeated Warriors of Eastern Connecticut State, but the Panthers did cut the deficit to 73-69. Johnson led all scorers with 26 points and led the Panthers with nine rebounds and two assists. Johnson's leadership and great play helped the Panthers play the undefeated Warriors to their closest contest of the season.

In the second game, Middlebury triumphed over Skidmore 81-78 in overtime. Johnson led all scorers in this game as well, posting 23 points, and led the Panthers in steals (four) and assists (five). For the first week of the new year, Johnson was 15-for-34 (.441) from the floor and 10-for-24 (.417) from behind the arc leading to 23.5 points, seven boards and three assists per game. Johnson looks to continue her stellar play and the team looks to continue their winning ways as they head to Southern Vermont and Rensselaer this week.

Men's basketball runs by Skidmore on the road

The men's basketball team traveled to Saratoga Springs, N.Y. this past weekend for a game at Skidmore. The Panthers came into the Jan. 5 meeting an impressive 8-2 and continued their impressive play by wallowing the Thoroughbreds 71-52. The domination started on the glass, where Middlebury was able to outrebound Skidmore 50-36. The Panthers came out strong, building a 16-4 lead in the early minutes that was cut down to a 31-25 halftime lead. As the lead slimmed to two, the Panthers turned it on as they went on a 17-2 tear and cruised to the win. Aaron Smith '09 led all scorers with 18 points and nine rebounds, Andrew Harris '08 scored 13 with six boards, and Ben Rudin '09 scored a dozen and came down with seven rebounds.

Four men named to All-American soccer team

After a tremendous fall that resulted in a national championship, four members of the Middlebury men's soccer team were recognized for their individual contributions when NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) announced its All-Region and All-American teams. Co-captain Alex Elias '08, Casey Ftorek '08 and Brian Bush '09 earned first-team All-American honors, while co-captain Andrew Germansky '08 was a second-team honoree.

Ftorek had a dynamic season on offense for the Panthers, setting a new school single-season record with 17 goals, seven more than anyone else in the NESCAC. Ftorek tallied the game-winning goal nine times this season, accounting for half of the game-winning goals for the team's 18 wins on the season.

Elias played solid ball, roaming the midfield for the Panthers this fall. He was a first-team All-NESCAC selection, contributing a goal and four assists on the season.

Germansky anchored a Middlebury defense that did not allow a single goal in five NCAA Tournament games. The senior played a crucial role in the team's 17 shutouts. The Panther defense ranked second nationally in shutout percentage (0.77) and third in goals-against-average (0.35).

Bush played phenomenal soccer this fall en route to a 15-1-2 record with 87 saves, ending the year with a 623-minute scoreless streak. Bush posted a .32 goals-against-average that ranked third in the nation. He broke the school's single-season shutout record with 13 shutouts in 19 starts. He was amazing during shootouts in the postseason, helping the Panthers to advance on three different occasions.



The Great Eight

Rank	Last	Team	Cap's Comments...
1	2	W. Hockey (7-1-1)	Roll into the New Year with three straight wins and the top spot in the rankings.
2	1	M. Basketball (10-2)	Went south to take in some rays and a second place finish at the Land of Magic Classic.
3	5	Men's Hockey (6-2-1)	Men finish Holiday Classic with a bang, coming from behind with three goals against Lake Forest.
4	4	W. Basketball (7-3)	Outran the Skidmore Thoroughbreds in overtime, proving something about Panthers.
5	7	Swimming & Diving (2-1)	Rushed by Springfield like the Connecticut river, but without the pollution.
6	3	Men's Squash (4-1)	Has seen just about as much action since Christmas as Angela's.
7	6	W. Squash (1-1)	Like the men, they open the New Year with four matches this weekend, making them busier than Roger Clemens' lawyers.
8	8	Skiing	Things officially kick off with the Bates Carnival this weekend — from there it's all downhill.



Jeff Patterson

First-years Anna McNally and Nora Bergman have made first-rate contributions this year.

Three-goal third period gives Panthers third straight title



Tournament M.V.P. Mack Cummins '09 (second from right) celebrates with Jamie McKenna '09 after scoring the game-winning goal in the finals of the 16th annual Middlebury Holiday Classic against Lake Forest (Ill.) College.

Jeff Patterson

Midd is hopping with islanders

By Peter Baumann
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Middlebury swimmer Peter Swanson '09 is no stranger to speed. The sprinter routinely covers 100 yards in a little over 50 seconds, and has been known to blow through a 50-yard race in only 23 seconds. However, because Swanson is one of two Middlebury winter athletes to hail from the island state of Hawaii, even at this blistering pace it would still take him over 46 days to swim from his high school in Honolulu to the front door of his dorm at Middlebury. Luckily, he does not have to, although the trip still takes between 12 and 14 hours door to door.

As far as athletics are concerned, Hawaii is as much a part of

the national lore as any of its better-known brethren. It is home to the Ironman Triathlon, a 128-mile-long test of human endurance combining an open-water swim, biking and running. The most famous team on the island, the University of Ha-

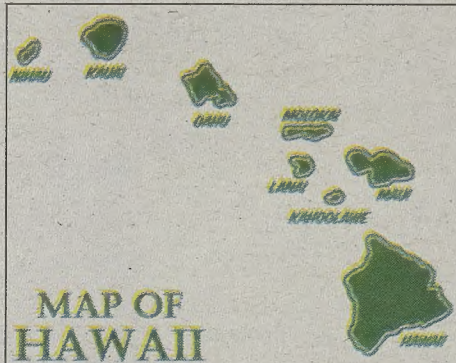
waii football team, recently completed an undefeated regular season, earning a spot amongst college football's elite in the Bowl Championship Series.

All told, despite the long distances traveled for many contests, Hawaiian athletes are universally proving themselves equal to their continental peers.

This is no different at Middlebury, where Swanson and fellow islander, women's basketball player Alana Wall '10, are already making names for themselves with steady, consistent contributions to

their respective teams. Both athletes attended rival high schools in the Hawaiian capital of Honolulu, and despite their hometown's well publicized perfect weather, both excel in sports that compete during

SEE HAWAIIAN, PAGE 20



Courtesy

Both Wall '10 and Swanson '09 hail from Oahu.

Women blank R.I.T., rally past Utica

By Emma Gardner
STAFF WRITER

As students slipped clumsily on the icy campus paths this weekend, the Middlebury women's hockey team gracefully mastered the ice at Kenyon Arena with two successive victories — a 3-0 shutout of fifth-ranked R.I.T. on Saturday, Jan. 5 and a 4-2 win against Utica College 24 hours later. The two victories improved the team's record to 7-1-1 on the season.

Starting off Winter Term with success was no accident. The team practiced intensively over the holidays, holding two-a-day practices so that they would be ready to face the Tigers and the Pioneers with confidence on Saturday and Sun-

Men's hockey finishes in classic form at its own Holiday Classic

By James Kerrigan
SPORTS EDITOR

With 7:46 remaining in the third period, the Middlebury fans broke out — perhaps presumptuously — into song, with the "Tiny Bubbles" cheer. But give the game-goers some credit. Even though the Panthers held only a one-goal advantage, they were playing inspired hockey and firing on all cylinders.

Fan optimism proved fruitful as Ken Suchoski '11 scored an insurance goal with just over two minutes left to give the Panthers a 3-1 lead and lock up the Holiday Classic title in the championship game against Lake Forest on Jan. 5 at Kenyon Arena.

Middlebury earned the right to play in the championship after a 6-4 win over SUNY Brockport, the Panther's most offensively productive men's hockey game since Middlebury crushed Fredonia 9-0 in last year's NCAA tournament.

While most students remained at home during the winter break, the hockey players returned to campus early and had what Coach Bill Beaney called a great week of practice.

"We worked on our transition offense and defense," said Beaney, "and on creating opportunities off the rush."

Off the transition and set plays, Middlebury created plenty of chances and fired 84 shots on goal over the two games. Tough forechecking and relentless work around the net played

a key role in the offensive production, which got going early on. Just 27 seconds into the semifinal game, Suchoski buried a rebound, and less than a minute later classmate Chaz Svoboda '11 did the same to give the Panthers a 2-0 lead.

After Brockport came back to tie up the contest, Middlebury went on the power play and moved the puck for well over a minute before Jamie McKenna '09 then found the



Jeff Patterson

Co-captain Tom Maldonado '08 was named to the All-Tournament team. He had three assists in the two games.

narrowest of openings between the defense and slid the puck across the ice to a wide open Mickey Gilchrist '08, who converted the one-timer to put the Panthers ahead. It was a lead they would not give up.

SEE 1,575 SAW, PAGE 22

day. Demonstrating the attitude that Head Coach Bill Mandigo has tried to cultivate in his players throughout the season, the women "face every game as though it's a big game, no matter what," said Lani Wright '10, who blocked 25 shots against R.I.T. in what was her first shutout of the year. "We are taught not to underes-

timate any team, and because Utica had just beaten Amherst, who we tied this season, Sunday's game was definitely a big one."

While R.I.T. appeared physically aggressive on Saturday, Middlebury put its home-ice advantage to use in handling Kenyon's large surface to

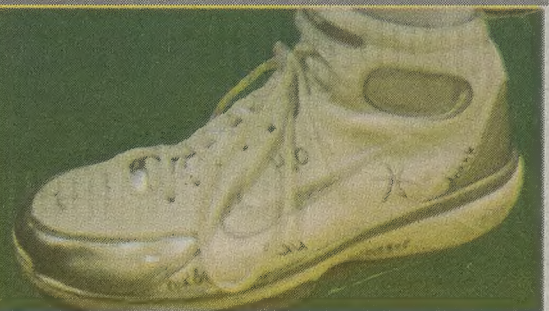
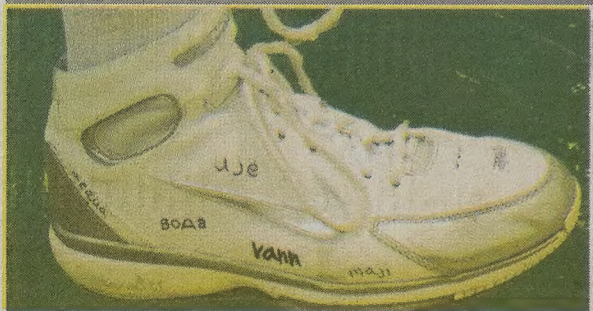
SEE DESPITE POWER, PAGE 23



Jeff Patterson

Karen Levin '08 fires a slap shot during the second period of the Panthers' 3-0 win over R.I.T., which came into Kenyon Arena as the nation's fifth-ranked team.

me and my: game shoes



"At the beginning of the season, I was in the locker room one day and wrote the word the 'water' in lots of different languages — Arabic, Hebrew, Swahili, German, Dutch, English, the scientific symbol (H₂O), the character for water in Japanese, which is the same for Chinese, Spanish — pretty much every language on freetranslation.com and then some more. 'Water' is a slang term for making shots, so I thought looking at the word over and over would help me keep making shots. Unfortunately, the words have started to wear off and my shot has gone away too."

— ASHTON COGHLAN '11

this week in sports

Inside the Locker Room:
Ryan Marklewitz '11
Who knows the first-year swimmer better? page 21



games to watch
Women's hockey vs. Bowdoin, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.
Men's squash vs. St. Lawrence, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m.



Women's basketball:
Panthers struggle at the free-throw line in loss to Colby-Sawyer, page 23